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Patentanmeidung Nr.

Patent application No. Demande de brevet n°

02102678.6

# **PRIORITY**

SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

Der Präsident des Europäischen Patentamts;

For the President of the European Patent Office

Le Président de l'Office européen des brevets p.o.

R C van Dijk



European Patent Office Office européen des brevets



Anmeldung Nr:

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Si aucun titre n'est indiqué se referer à la description.)

NOVEL IFNgamma-LIKE POLYPEPTIDES

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### **NOVEL IFNgamma-LIKE POLYPEPTIDES**

#### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to nucleic acid sequences identified in human genome as encoding for novel polypeptides, more specifically for novel polypeptides having at least one activity of human interferon gamma.

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## **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Interferons (IFNs) are cytokines that play a complex and central role in mammallan immunological response to pathologic events such as infections, immunological disorders, and neoplastic degenerations.

There are two groups of IFNs: type I (IFNalpha and IFNbeta) and type II (IFNgamma, also known as immune interferon). IFNgamma is a cytokine produced by T-lymphocytes and natural killer cells and exists as a homodimer of two noncovalently bound polypeptide subunits, found in different glycosylated forms (Younes HM and Amsden BG, 2002; Boehm U et al., 1997).

iFNgamma is a potent activator of mononuclear phagocytes, capable of affecting immune response by inducing the expression of several molecule, including tumor necrosis factor (TNF), class I / II major histocompatibility complex (MHC) molecules, and the enzymes mediating the respiratory burst which allow macrophages to kill phagocytosed microbes and tumor cells. IFNgamma triggers, by binding its cell surface receptor and activating intracellular signal transduction (JAK-STAT pathway, in particular), not only T and B-lymphocytes differentiation and the cytolytic activity of natural killer (NK) cells, but also the apoptosis or the proliferation of other c ell types, such as vascular endothelial cells, also by modulating tryptophan metabolism.

The cellular responses to IFNgamma are particularly complex also because this protein coordinates many different cellular events. Moreover, IFNgamma may have agonistic, as well as antagonistic, properties which can be cell type-specific.

Important therapeutic properties of IFNgamma, alone or in combination with other compounds, have been suggested and/or demonstrated for a broad range of indications including Interstitial Pulmonary Fibrosis (Ziesche R et al., 1999), asthma (WO 01/34180), or septic shock (Docke WD et al., 1997). In cancer immunotherapy, IFNgamma is injected along with irradiated autologous tumor cell, since it acts as an adjuvant and enhances the immune response to the tumor cell challenge. IFNgamma is currently is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for limited clinical uses (such as for the reduction of infections associated with chronic granulomatous disease and for delaying progression in patients with malignant osteopetrosis), since this protein also yields significant side effects, such as fever, fatigue, nausea, and neurotoxicity.

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These limitations, probably due to the expression of IFNgamma receptors on the surface of almost all types of human cells and the consequent excessive signaling activities (Bach EA et al., 1997), have prompted the development of alternative forms and delivering systems for this cytokine to achieve more acceptable results. Various naturally-occurring or synthetic forms of the human IFNgamma have been described, having longer or shorter N- / C-terminal sequences, or mutated in specific residues for improving specific properties such as heat-stability (WO97/11179) or glycosylation (WO 02/81507).

The literature provides many examples of different approaches for characterizing novel proteins by making use of bioinformatics analysis of transcripts, for example for chemokines (Wells TN and Peitsch MC, 2000). For example, GB patent application No.

0130720.6 discloses a novel polypeptide sequence, called INSP037, matching structural features of IFNgamma.

Since the actual content in DNA sequence in human genome encoding for IFNs (and for any other protein family) is still unknown, the possibility still exists to identify DNA sequence encoding polypeptide having IFNgamma-like structure and activity by applying alternative homology/structural criteria to the totality of Open Reading Frames (ORFs, that is, genomic sequences containing consecutive triplets of nucleotides coding for amino acids, not interrupted by a termination codon and potentially translatable in a polypeptide) present in human genome.

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#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention is based upon the identification of Open Reading Frames (ORFs) in human genome encoding novel IFNgamma-like polypeptides on the basis of the homology with INSP037.

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Accordingly, the invention provides identifies polypeptides having the amino acid sequence given by SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40, their mature forms, variants, and fragments, as polypeptides having at least one activity of human IFNgamma. The invention includes also the nucleic acids encoding them, vectors containing such nucleic acids, and cell containing these vectors or nucleic acids, as well as other related reagents such as fusion proteins and ligands.

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The invention provides methods for identifying and making these molecules, for preparing pharmaceutical compositions containing them, and for their use in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases where compounds having at least one activity of human IFNgamma may provide positive effects.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES**

Figure 1: alignment of IFNFH01 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 1) with pIFNFH01 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 2). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (71% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH01\_5 (forward, SEQ ID NO: 41) and CL\_IFNFH01\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 42) in the ORF sequence.

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- Figure 2: alignment of IFNFH03 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 3) with pIFNFH03 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 4). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (73.5% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH03\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 43) and CL\_IFNFH03\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 44) in the ORF sequence.
- Figure 3: alignment of IFNFH04 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 5) with pIFNFH04 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 6). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (73.5% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH04\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 45) and CL\_IFNFH04\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 46) in the ORF sequence.
- Figure 4: alignment of IFNFH08 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 7) with pIFNFH08 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 8). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (78.5% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH08\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 47) and CL\_IFNFH08\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 48) in the ORF sequence.
- Figure 5: alignment of IFNFH10 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 9) with pIFNFH10 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 10). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (69.5% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the

position of the primers CL\_IFNFH10\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 49) and CL\_IFNFH10\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 50) in the ORF sequence.

Figure 6: alignment of IFNFH11 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 11) with pIFNFH11 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 12). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (73.5% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH11\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 51) and CL\_IFNFH11\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 52) in the ORF sequence.

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Figure 7: alignment of IFNFH12 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 13) with pIFNFH12 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 14). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (73.5% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH12\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 53) and CL\_IFNFH12\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 54) in the ORF sequence.

Figure 8: alignment of IFNFH13 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 15) with pIFNFH13 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 16). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (69.5% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH13\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 55) and CL\_IFNFH13\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 56) in the ORF sequence.

Figure 9: alignment of IFNFH14 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 17) with pIFNFH14 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 18). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (71% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH14\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 57) and CL\_IFNFH14\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 58) in the ORF sequence.

Figure 10: alignment of IFNFH15 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 19) with pIFNFH15 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 20). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (71% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position

of the primers CL\_IFNFH15\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 59) and CL\_IFNFH15\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 60) in the ORF sequence.

Figure 11: alignment of IFNFH20 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 21) with pIFNFH20 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 22). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (67% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH20\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 61) and CL\_IFNFH20\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 62) in the ORF sequence.

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- Figure 12: alignment of IFNFH23 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 23) with pIFNFH23 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 24). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (72% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH23\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 63) and CL\_IFNFH23\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 64) in the ORF sequence.
- Figure 13: alignment of IFNFH25 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 25) with pIFNFH25 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 26). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (70% of identity with INSP037).
- Figure 14: alignment of IFNFH27 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 27) with pIFNFH27 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 28). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (68% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH27\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 65) and CL\_IFNFH27\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 66) in the ORF sequence.
- Figure 15: alignment of IFNFH31 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 29) with pIFNFH31 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 30). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (68% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH31\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 67) and CL\_IFNFH31\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 68) in the ORF sequence.

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Figure 16: alignment of IFNFH32 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 31) with pIFNFH32 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 32). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (70% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH32\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 69) and CL\_IFNFH32\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 70) in the ORF sequence.

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- Figure 17: alignment of IFNFH36 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 33) with pIFNFH36 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 34). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (72% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH36\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 71) and CL\_IFNFH36\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 72) in the ORF sequence.
- Figure 18: alignment of IFNFH37 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 35) with pIFNFH37 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 36). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (76% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH37\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 73) and CL\_IFNFH37\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 74) in the ORF sequence.
- Figure 19: alignment of IFNFH39 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 37) with pIFNFH39 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 38). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (70% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH39\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 75) and CL\_IFNFH39\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 76) in the ORF sequence.
- Figure 20: alignment of IFNFH42 ORF (SEQ ID NO: 39) with pIFNFH42 protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 40). The residues found identical in INSP037 are underlined (67% of identity with INSP037). The arrows indicate the position of the primers CL\_IFNFH42\_5 (forward; SEQ ID NO: 77) and CL\_IFNFH42\_3 (reverse; SEQ ID NO: 78) in the ORF sequence.

Figure 21: alignment of the human IFN gamma-like INSP037 (SEQ ID NO: 155) with the protein sequences of the invention, grouped according to their length and homology. The region common to INSP037 and pIFNFHs is boxed (residues identical in INSP037 are underlined).

Figure 11: map of the expression vector pEAK12D.

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## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

The main object of the present invention are novel, isolated polypeptides having at least one activity of human IFNgamma selected from the group consisting of:

- a) amino acid sequences SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40;
- b) variants of the amino acid sequences SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40, which are at least 80% identical to said sequences;
- c) mature forms, active fragments, precursors, salts, or derivatives of the amino acid sequences given in a) or b).

The novel polypeptides pIFNFH01 (SEQ ID NO: 2), pIFNFH03 (SEQ ID NO: 4), pIFNFH04 (SEQ ID NO: 6), pIFNFH08 (SEQ ID NO: 8), pIFNFH10 (SEQ ID NO: 10), pIFNFH11 (SEQ ID NO: 12), pIFNFH12 (SEQ ID NO: 14), pIFNFH13 (SEQ ID NO: 16), pIFNFH14 (SEQ ID NO: 18), pIFNFH15 (SEQ ID NO: 20), pIFNFH20 (SEQ ID NO: 22), pIFNFH23 (SEQ ID NO: 24), pIFNFH25 (SEQ ID NO: 26), pIFNFH27 (SEQ ID NO: 28), pIFNFH31 (SEQ ID NO: 30), pIFNFH32 (SEQ ID NO: 32), pIFNFH36 (SEQ ID NO: 34), pIFNFH37 (SEQ ID NO: 36), pIFNFH39 (SEQ ID NO: 38), and pIFNFH42 (SEQ ID NO: 40) were identified on the basis of the comparable length and the sequence homology

with INSP037, a protein predicted to be an IFNgamma-like protein (GB patent application No. 0130720.6).

The totality of amino acid sequences obtained by translating the known ORFs in the human genome were challenged using INSP037 protein sequence, and the positive hits were further selected on the basis of sequence length and amino acid conservation comparable to INSP037 and/or human IFNgamma. Therefore, the novel polypeptides of the invention can be predicted to have at least one of the biological activities of human IFNgamma.

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In addition to such sequences, a series of polypeptides forms part of the disclosure of the invention, such as variants of the amino acid sequences SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40, which are at least 80% identical to said sequences. Similar variants can be identified and/or designed using commonly available bioinformatic tools (Mulder NJ and Apweiler R, 2002; Rehm BH, 2001), measuring the percentage over the entire amino acid sequences disclosed in figures 1-20, or in particular over a segment of at least 78 amino acids containing the region of homology with INSP037, as indicated in figure 21. The variants may correspond to naturally occurring allelic variants of the sequences SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40, as the ones possibly resulting from the translation of a single nucleotide polymorphism.

In accordance with the present invention, any non-identical amino acid substitution should be preferably either an amino acid which is present in the same position in another of the protein sequence of the invention (figure 21), or a "conservative" or "safe" substitution, which introduces an amino acids having sufficiently similar chemical properties (eg a basic, positively charged amino acid

should be replaced by another basic, positively charged amino acid), in order to preserve the structure and the biological function of the molecule.

The literature provide many models on which the selection of conservative amino acids substitutions can be performed on the basis of statistical and physico-chemical studies on the sequence and/or the structure of proteins (Rogov SI and Nekrasov AN, 2001). Protein design experiments have shown that the use of specific subsets of amino acids can produce foldable and active proteins, helping in the classification of amino acid "synonymous" substitutions which can be more easily accommodated in protein structure, and which can be used to detect functional and structural homologs, orthologs, and paralogs (Murphy LR et al., 2000). The groups of synonymous amino acids and the groups of more preferred synonymous amino acids are shown in Table I.

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Specific, non-conservative mutations can be also introduced in the polypeptides of the invention with different purposes, for example, the elimination of immunogenic epitopes, the alteration of binding properties, the alteration of the glycosylation patter n, or the improvement of protein stability (van den Burg B and Eijsink V, 2002; Robinson CR, 2002; WO 02/05146; WO 00/34317; WO 98/52976).

Mature forms, active fragments, precursors, salts, or derivatives of the amino acid sequences SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40, and of the variants defined before, are also part of the disclosure of the present invention when they have at least one of the biological activities of human IFNgamma..

Mature forms and active fragments can result from natural or artificial post-transcriptional or post-translational events. For example, truncated proteins can be generated by genetic engineering and expressed in host cells, or by a proteolytic processing leading to the removal of N-terminal sequences (by signal peptidases and

other proteolytic enzymes). Other alternative mature forms can also result from the addition of chemical groups such as sugars or phosphates.

Fragments should present deletions of terminal or internal amino acids not altering their function, and should involve generally a few amino acids, e.g., under ten, and preferably under three, without removing or displacing amino acids which are critical to the conformation of the active protein.

The "precursors" are compounds which can be converted into the compounds of present invention by metabolic and enzymatic processing prior or after the administration to the cells or to the body.

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The term "salts" herein refers to both salts of carboxyl groups and to acid addition salts of amino groups of the polypeptides of the present invention. Salts of a carboxyl group may be formed by means known in the art and include inorganic salts, for example, sodium, calcium, ammonium, ferric or zinc salts, and the like, and salts with organic bases as those formed, for example, with amines, such as triethanolamine, arginine or lysine, piperidine, procaine and the like. Acid addition salts include, for example, salts with mineral acids such as, for example, hydrochloric acid or sulfuric acid, and salts with organic acids such as, for example, acetic acid or oxalic acid. Any of such salts should have substantially similar activity to the peptides and polypeptides of the invention or their analogs.

The term "derivatives" as herein used refers to derivatives which can be prepared from the functional groups present on the lateral chains of the amino acid moieties or on the amino- or carboxy-terminal groups according to known methods. Such molecules can result also from other modifications which do not normally alter primary sequence, for example *in vivo* or *in vitro* chemical derivativization of polypeptides (acetylation or carboxylation), those made by modifying the pattern of phosphorylation

(introduction of phosphotyrosine, phosphoserine, or phosphothreonine residues) or glycosylation (by exposing the polypeptide to mammalian glycosylating enzymes) of a peptide during its synthesis and processing or in further processing steps. Alternatively, derivatives may include esters or aliphatic amides of the carboxyl-groups and N-acyl derivatives of free amino groups or O-acyl derivatives of free hydroxyl-groups and are formed with acyl-groups as for example alcanoyl- or aryl-groups.

The generation of the derivatives may involve a site-directed modification of an appropriate residue, in an internal or terminal position. The residues used for attachment should they have a side-chain amenable for polymer attachment (i.e., the side chain of an amino acid bearing a functional group, e.g., lysine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, cysteine, histidine, etc.). Alternatively, a residue having a side chain amenable for polymer attachment can replace an amino acid of the polypeptide, or can be added in an internal or terminal position of the polypeptide. Also, the side chains of the genetically encoded amino acids can be chemically modified for polymer attachment, or unnatural amino acids with appropriate side chain functional groups can be employed. The preferred method of attachment employs a combination of pe ptide synthesis and chemical ligation. Advantageously, the attachment of a water-soluble polymer will be through a biodegradable linker, especially at the amino-terminal region of a protein. Such modification acts to provide the protein in a precursor (or "pro-drug") form, that, upon degradation of the linker releases the protein without polymer modification.

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Polymer attachment may be not only to the side chain of the amino acid naturally occurring in a specific position of the antagonist or to the side chain of a natural or unnatural amino acid that replaces the amino acid naturally occurring in a specific position of the antagonist, but also to a carbohydrate or other molety that is attached to

the side chain of the amino acid at the target position. Rare or unnatural amino acids can be also introduced by expressing the protein in specifically engineered bacterial strains (Bock A, 2001).

All the above indicated variants can be natural, being identified in organisms other than humans, or artificial, being prepared by chemical synthesis, by site-directed mutagenesis techniques, or any other known technique suitable thereof, which provide a finite set of substantially corresponding mutated or shortened peptides or polypeptides which can be routinely obtained and tested by one of ordinary skill in the art using the teachings presented in the prior art.

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The novel amino acid sequences disclosed in the present patent application can be used to provide different kind of reagents and molecules. Examples of these compounds are binding proteins or antibodies that can be identified using their full sequence or specific fragments, such as antigenic determinants. Peptide libraries can be used in known methods (Tribbick G, 2002) for screening and characterizing antibodies or other proteins binding the claimed amino acid sequences, and for identifying alternative forms of the polypeptides of the invention having similar binding properties.

The present patent application discloses also fusion proteins comprising any of the polypeptides described above. These polypeptides should contain protein sequence heterologous to the one disclosed in the present patent application, without significatively impairing the IFNgamma-related activity and possibly providing additional properties. Examples of such properties are an easier purification procedure, a longer lasting half-life in body fluids, an additional binding moiety, the maturation by means of an endoproteolytic digestion, or extracellular localization. This latter feature is of particular importance for defining a specific group of fusion or chimeric proteins

included in the above definition since it allows the claimed molecules to be localized in the space where not only isolation and purification of these polypeptides is facilitated, but also where generally IFNs and their receptors interact.

Design of the moieties, ligands, and linkers, as well methods and strategies for the construction, purification, detection and use of fusion proteins are disclosed in the literature (Nilsson J et al., 1997; Methods Enzymol, Vol. 326-328, Academic Press, 2000). The preferred one or more protein sequences which can be comprised in the fusion proteins belong to these protein sequences: membrane-bound protein, immunoglobulin constant region, multimerization domains, extracellular proteins, signal peptide-containing proteins, export signal-containing proteins. Features of these sequences and their specific uses are disclosed in a detailed manner, for example, for albumin fusion proteins (WO 01/77137), fusion proteins including multimerization domain (WO 01/02440, WO 00/24782), immunoconjugates (Garnett MC, 2001), or fusion protein providing additional sequences which can be used for purifying the 15 recombinant products by affinity chromatography (Constans A, 2002; Burgess RR and Thompson NE, 2002; Lowe CR et al., 2001; J. Bioch. Biophy. Meth., vol. 49 (1-3), 2001; Sheibani N, 1999).

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The polypeptides of the invention can be used to generate and characterize ligands binding specifically to them. These molecules can be natural or artificial, very different from the chemical point of view (binding proteins, antibodies, molecularly imprinted polymers), and can be produced by applying the teachings in the art (WO 02/74938; Kuroiwa Y et al., 2002; Haupt K, 2002; van Dijk MA and van de Winkel JG, 2001; Gavilondo JV and Larrick JW, 2000). Such ligands can antagonize or inhibit the IFNgamma-related activity of the polypeptide of the invention against which they have been generated. In particular, common and efficient ligands are represented by extracellular domain of a membrane-bound protein or antibodies, which can be in the form monoclonal, polyclonal, humanized antibody, or an antigen binding fragment.

The polypeptides and the polypeptide-based derived reagents described above can be in alternative forms, according to the desired method of use and/or production, such as active conjugates or complexes with a molecule chosen amongst radioactive labels, fluorescent labels, blotin, or cytotoxic agents.

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Specific molecules, such as peptide mimetics, can be also designed on the sequence and/or the structure of a polypeptide of the invention. Peptide mimetics (also called peptidomimetics) are peptides chemically modified at the level of amino acid side chains, of amino acid chirality, and/or of the peptide backbone. These alterations are intended to provide agonists or antagonists of the polypeptdes of the invention with improved preparation, potency and/or pharmacokinetics features.

For example, when the peptide is susceptible to cleavage by peptidases following injection into the subject is a problem, replacement of a particularly sensitive peptide bond with a non-cleavable peptide mimetic can provide a peptide more stable and thus more useful as a therapeutic compound. Similarly, the replacement of an L-amino acid residue is a standard way of rendering the peptide less sensitive to proteolysis, and finally more similar to organic compounds other than peptides. Also useful are amino terminal blocking groups such as t-butyloxycarbonyl, acetyl, theyl, succinyl, methoxysuccinyl, suberyl, adipyl, azelayi, dansyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl, methoxyazelayl, methoxyadipyl, methoxysuberyl, and 2,4dinitrophenyl. Many other modifications providing increased potency, prolonged activity, easiness of purification, and/or increased half-life are disclosed in the prior art (WO 02/10195; Villain M et al., 2001).

Preferred alternative, synonymous groups for amino acids derivatives included in peptide mimetics are those defined in Table II. A non-exhaustive list of amino acid derivatives also include aminoisobutyric acid (Aib), hydroxyproline (Hyp), 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinoline-3-COOH, indoline-2carboxylic acid, 4-difluoro-proline, L-thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid, L-homoproline, 3,4-dehydro-proline, 3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine, cyclohexyl-glycine, and phenylglycine.

By "amino acid derivative" is intended an amino acid or amino acid-like chemical entity other than one of the 20 genetically encoded naturally occurring a mino acids. In particular, the amino acid derivative may contain substituted or non-substituted, linear, branched, or cyclic alkyl moieties, and may include one or more heteroatoms. The amino acid derivatives can be made de novo or obtained from commercial sources (Calbiochem-Novabiochem AG, Switzerland; Bachem, USA).

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Various methodologies for incorporating unnatural amino acids derivatives into proteins, using both *in vitro* and *in vivo* translation systems, to probe and/or improve protein structure and function are disclosed in the literature (Dougherty DA, 2000). Techniques for the synthesis and the development of peptide mimetics, as well as non-peptide mimetics, are also well known in the art (Golebiowski A et al., 2001; Hruby VJ and Balse PM, 2000; Sawyer TK, in "Structure Based Drug Design", edited by Veerapandian P, Marcel Dekker Inc., pg. 557-663, 1997).

Another object of the present invention are isolated nucleic acids encoding for the polypeptides of the invention having at least one activity of human IFNgamma, or the corresponding fusion proteins, as disclosed above. Preferably, these nucleic acids should comprise a DNA sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39, or the complement of said DNA sequences.

Alternatively, the nucleic acids of the invention are the purified nucleic acids which hybridize under high stringency conditions, or exhibit at least about 85% identity over a stretch of at least about 30 nucleotides, with a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39, or a complement of said DNA sequences.

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The wording "high stringency conditions" refers to conditions in a hybridization reaction that facilitate the association of very similar molecules and consist in the overnight incubation at 60-65°C in a solution comprising 50 % formamide, 5X SSC (150 m M NaCl, 15 m M trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10 % dextran sulphate, and 20 microgram/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA, followed by washing the filters in O.1X SSC at the same temperature.

These nucleic acids, including nucleotide sequences substantially the same, can be comprised in plasmids, vectors and any other DNA construct which can be used for maintaining, modifying, introducing, or expressing the encoded polypeptide in a cell or a virus. In particular, vectors wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to expression control sequences can allow expression in prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cells of the encoded polypeptide.

The wording "nucleotide sequences substantially the same" includes all other nucleic acid sequences which, by virtue of the degeneracy of the genetic code, also code for the given amino acid sequences. In this sense, the literature provides indications on preferred or optimized codons for recombinant expression (Kane JF et al., 1995).

The nucleic acids and the vectors can be introduced into cells or virus with different purposes, generating transgenic cells and organisms. For example, a process

for producing cells capable of expressing a polypeptide of the invention comprises genetically engineering cells with such vectors or nucleic acids.

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In particular, host cells (e.g. bacterial cells) can be modified by transformation for allowing the transient or stable expression of the polypeptides encoded by the nucleic acids and the vectors of the invention. Alternatively, said molecules can be used to generate transgenic animal cells or non-human organisms (by non-/homologous recombination or by any other method allowing their stable integration and expression), having enhanced or reduced expression levels of the polypeptides of the invention, when the level is compared with the normal expression levels. Such precise modifications can be obtained by making use of the nucleic acids of the inventions and of technologies associated, for example, to gene therapy (Meth. Enzymol., vol. 346, 2002) or to site-specific recombinases (Kolb AF, 2002). Model systems based on the polypeptides disclosed in the present patent application can be also generated by gene targeting into human cell lines for the systematic study of their activities (Bunz F, 2002).

The polypeptides of the invention can be prepared by any method known in the art, including recombinant DNA-related technologies, and chemical synthesis technologies. In particular, a method for making a polypeptide of the invention may comprise culturing a host or transgenic cell as described above under conditions in which the nucleic acid or vector is expressed, and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid or vector from cell culture. For example, when the vector expresses the polypeptide as a fusion protein with an extracellular or signal-peptide containing proteins, the recombinant product can be secreted in the extracellular space, and can be more easily collected and purified from cultured cells in view of further processing or, alternatively, the cells can be directly used or administered.

The DNA sequence coding for the proteins of the invention can be inserted and ligated into a suitable episomal or non- / homologously integrating vectors, which can be introduced in the appropriate host cells or virus by any suitable means (transformation, transfection, conjugation, protoplast fusion, electroporation, calcium phosphate-precipitation, direct microinjection, etc.). Factors of importance in selecting a particular plasmid or viral vector include: the ease with which recipient cells that contain the vector, may be recognized and selected from those recipient cells which do not contain the vector; the number of copies of the vector which are desired in a particular host; and whether it is desirable to be able to "shuttle" the vector between host cells of different species.

The vectors should allow the expression of the isolated or fusion protein including the polypeptide of the invention in the Prokaryotic or Eukaryotic host cells under the control of transcriptional initiation / termination regulatory sequences, which are chosen to be inducible or constitutively active in said cell. A cell line substantially enriched in such cells can be then isolated to provide a stable cell line.

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Different transcriptional and translational regulatory sequences may be employed for Eukaryotic hosts, depending on the nature of the host (e.g. yeasts, insect, plant, or mammalian cells). They may be derived form viral sources, such as adenovirus, bovine papilloma virus, Simian virus or the like, where the regulatory signals are associated with a particular gene which has a high level of expression. Examples are the TK promoter of the Herpes virus, the SV40 early promoter, the yeast gal4 gene promoter, etc. Transcriptional initiation regulatory signals may be selected which allow for repression and activation, so that expression of the genes can be modulated. The cells stably transformed by the introduced DNA can be selected by introducing one or more markers allowing the selection of host cells which contain the expression vector. The

marker may also provide for phototrophy to an auxotropic host, resistance to biocides (e.g. antibiotics) or to heavy metals (e.g. copper). The selectable marker gene can either be directly linked to the DNA sequences to be expressed in the same vector, or introduced into the same cell by co-transfecting another vector.

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Host cells may be either prokaryotic or eukaryotic. Preferred are eukaryotic hosts, e.g. mammalian cells, such as human, monkey, mouse, and Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cells, because they provide post-translational modifications to proteins, including correct folding and glycosylation. Also yeast cells can carry out post-translational peptide modifications including glycosylation. A number of recombinant DNA strategies exist which utilize strong promoter sequences and high copy number of plasmids which can be utilized for production of the desired proteins in yeast. Yeast recognizes leader sequences in cloned mammalian gene products and secretes peptides bearing leader sequences (i.e., pre-peptides).

The above mentioned embodiments of the invention can be achieved by

15 - combining the disclosure provided by the present patent application on the sequence of
novel polypeptides having IFNgamma-related activities with the knowledge of common
molecular biology techniques.

Many books and reviews provides teachings on how to clone and produce recombinant proteins using vectors and Prokaryotic or Eukaryotic host cells, such as some titles in the series "A Practical Approach" published by Oxford University Press ("DNA Cloning 2: Expression Systems", 1995; "DNA Cloning 4: Mammalian Systems", 1996; "Protein Expression", 1999; "Protein Purification Techniques", 2001).

Moreover, literature also provides an overview of the technologies for expressing polypeptides in a high-throughput manner (Chambers SP, 2002; Coleman TA, et al., 1997), of the cell systems and the processes used industrially for the large-scale

production of recombinant proteins having therapeutic applications (Andersen DC and Krummen L, 2002, Chu L and Robinson DK, 2001), and of alternative eukaryotic expression systems for expressing the polypeptide of interest, which may have considerable potential for the economic production of the desired protein, such the ones based on transgenic plants (Giddings G, 2001) or the yeast *Pichia pastoris* (Lin Cereghino GP et al., 2002). Recombinant protein products can be rapidly monitored with various analytical technologies during purification to verify the amount and the quantity of the expressed polypeptides (Baker KN et al., 2002), as well as to check properties like bioequivalence and immunogenicity (Schellekens H, 2002; Gendel SM, 2002).

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Totally synthetic proteins are disclosed in the literature (Brown A et al., 1996), and many examples of chemical synthesis technologies, which can be effectively applied for the polypeptides of the invention given their short length, are available in the literature, as solid phase or liquid phase synthesis technologies. For example, the amino acid corresponding to the carboxy-terminus of the peptide to be synthetized is bound to a support which is insoluble in organic solvents, and by alternate repetition of reactions, one wherein amino acids with their amino groups and side chain functional groups protected with appropriate protective groups are condensed one by one in order from the carboxy-terminus to the amino-terminus, and one where the amino acids bound to the resin or the protective group of the amino groups of the peptides are released, the peptide chain is thus extended in this manner. Solid phase synthesis methods are largely classified by the tBoc method and the Fmoc method, depending on the type of protective group used. Typically used protective groups include tBoc (t-butoxycarbonyl), CI-Z (2-chlorobenzyloxycarbonyl), Br-Z (2-bromobenzyloxycarbonyl), Bzl (benzyl), Fmoc (9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl), Mbh (4,4'-dlmethoxydibenzhydryl),

: :

Mtr (4-methoxy-2,3,6-trimethylbenzenesulphonyl), Trt (trityl), Tos (tosyl), Z (benzyloxycarbonyl) and Cl2-Bzl (2,6-dichlorobenzyl) for the amino groups; NO2 (nitro) and Pmc (2,2,5,7,8-pentamethylchromane-6-sulphonyl) for the guanidino groups); and tBu (t-butyl) for the hydroxyl groups). After synthesis of the desired peptide, it is subjected to the de-protection reaction and cut out from the solid support. Such peptide cutting reaction may be carried with hydrogen fluoride or tri-fluoromethane sulfonic acid for the Boc method, and with TFA for the Fmoc me thod.

The purification of the polypeptides of the invention can be carried out by any one of the methods known for this purpose, i.e. any conventional procedure involving extraction, precipitation, chromatography, electrophoresis, or the like. A further purification procedure that may be used in preference for purifying the protein of the invention is affinity chromatography using monoclonal antibodies or affinity groups, which bind the target protein and which are produced and immobilized on a gel matrix contained within a column. Impure preparations containing the proteins are passed through the column. The protein will be bound to the column by heparin or by the specific antibody while the impurities will pass through. After washing, the protein is eluted from the gel by a change in pH or ionic strength. Alternatively, HPLC (High Performance Liquid Chromatography) can be used. The elution can be carried using a water-acetonitrile-based solvent commonly employed for protein purification.

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The disclosure of the novel polypeptides of the invention, and the reagents disclosed in connection to them (antibodies, nucleic acids, cells) allows also to screen and characterize compounds (proteins, as well as small organic molecules) that are capable to enhance or reduce their expression level into a cell or in an animal. Examples of compounds that can reduce or block the expression of polypeptides are antisense oligonucleotides (Stein CA, 2001) or small interfering, double stranded RNA

molecules that can trigger RNA interference-mediated silencing (Paddison PJ et al., 2002; Lewis DL et al., 2002). These compounds are intended as antagonists (in addition to the ones above described in connection to mutants and ligands) in the context of the possible mechanism of antagonism for blocking cytokine/chemokine-controlled pathways as defined in the literature (Choy EH and Panayi GS, 2001; Dower SK, 2000).

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"Oligonucleotides" refers to either a single stranded polydeoxynucleotide or two complementary polydeoxynucleotide strands which may be chemically synthesized.

Such synthetic oligonucleotides have no 5' phosphate and thus will not ligate to another oligonucleotide without adding a phosphate with an ATP in the presence of a kinase. A synthetic oligonucleotide will ligate to a fragment that has not been dephosphorylated.

The invention includes purified preparations of the products of the invention (polypeptides, nucleic acids, cells, ligands, peptide mimetics). Purified preparations, as used herein, refers to the preparations which containing at least 1%, preferably at least 5%, by dry weight of the compounds of the invention.

The present patent application discloses a series of novel polypeptides and of related reagents having one or more human IFNgamma-related activities which can be exploited for several possible applications. In particular, whenever the increase of a human IFNgamma-related activity of a polypeptide of the invention is desirable in the therapy or in the prevention of a disease, reagents such as the disclosed INS P037-like polypeptides, the corresponding fusion proteins and peptide mimetics, the encoding nucleic acids, the expressing cells, or the compounds enhancing their expression can be used.

Therefore, the present invention discloses pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment or prevention of diseases needing an increase in a human IFNgamma activity of a polypeptide of the invention, which contain one of the disclosed INSP037-like polypeptides, the corresponding fusion proteins and peptide mimetics, the encoding nucleic acids, the expressing cells, or the compounds enhancing their expression, as active ingredient. The process for the preparation of these pharmaceutical compositions comprises combining the disclosed INSP037-like polypeptides, the corresponding fusion proteins and peptide mimetics, the encoding nucleic acids, the expressing cells, or the compounds enhancing their expression, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Methods for the treatment or prevention of diseases needing an increase in a human IFNgamma activity of a polypeptide of the invention, comprise the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of the disclosed INSP037-like polypeptides, the corresponding fusion proteins and peptide mimetics, the encoding nucleic acids, the expressing cells, or the compounds enhancing their expression.

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Amongst the novel molecules disclosed in the present patent application, the ligands or the compounds reducing the expression or the activity of polypeptides of the invention have several applications, and in particular they can be used in the therapy or in the diagnosis of a disease associated to the excessive human IFNgamma activity of a polypeptide of the invention.

Therefore, the present invention discloses pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment or prevention of diseases associated to the excessive human IFNgamma activity of a polypeptide of the invention, which contain one of the ligands or compounds reducing the expression or the activity of such polypeptides, as active ingredient. The process for the preparation of these pharmaceutical compositions

comprises combining the ligand or the compound, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Methods for the treatment or prevention of diseases associated to the excessive IFNgamma-related activity of the polypeptide of the invention, comprise the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of the antagonist, the ligand or of the compound.

The present patent application discloses novel INSP037-like polypeptides and a series of related reagents that may be useful, as active ingredients in pharmaceutical compositions appropriately formulated, in the treatment or prevention of diseases for which a compound having a human IFNgamma-related activity may provide beneficial effects, such as cell proliferative disorders, autoimmune/inflammatory disorders, cardiovascular disorders, neurological disorders, or bacterial and viral infections. A non-exhaustive lists of disorders include multiple sclerosis, graft-vs-host disease, lymphomas, leukaemia, Crohn's disease, asthma, septic shock, type I and type II diabetes, allergies, asthma, psoriasis, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis, fibrotic diseases, rheumatoid arthritis, and neuroblastoma.

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The therapeutic applications of the polypeptides of the invention and of the related reagents can be evaluated (in terms or safety, pharmacokinetics and efficacy) by the means of the *in vivo I in vitro* assays making use of animal cell, tissues and models developed for human IFNgamma and/or IFNgamma binding proteins (Younes HM and Amsden BG, 2002; Boehm U et al., 1997; Bach EA et al., 1997), including their orthologs, or by the means of *in silico I* computational approaches (Johnson DE and Wolfgang GH, 2000), known for the validation of IFNs and other biological products during drug discovery and preclinical development.

It is intended that any disclosed use or activity related to human IFNgamma (or its orthologs) disclosed in the prior art is also applicable to any corresponding

embodiment of the present Invention, such as therapeutic uses and compositions, alone or in combination with another compounds (EP311616, WO 01/34180, EP 490250, EP203580, EP502997, EP886527, EP696639), formulations (EP697887, WO 01/36001), expression systems (WO 01/57218) known for human IFNgamma.

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The pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may contain, in addition to INSP037-like polypeptide or to the related reagent, suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, biologically compatible vehicles and additives which are suitable for administration to an animal (for example, physiological saline) and eventually comprising auxiliaries (like excipients, stabilizers, adjuvants, or diluents) which facilitate the processing of the active compound into preparations which can be used pharmaceutically.

The pharmaceutical compositions may be formulated in any acceptable way to meet the needs of the mode of administration. For example, of biomaterials, sugar-macromolecule conjugates, hydrogels, polyethylene glycol and other natural or synthetic polymers can be used for improving the active ingredients in terms of drug delivery efficacy. Technologies and models to validate a specific mode of administration are disclosed in literature (Davis BG and Robinson MA, 2002; Gupta P et al., 2002; Luo B and Prestwich GD, 2001; Cleland JL et al., 2001; Pillai O and Panchagnula R, 2001).

Polymers suitable for these purposes are biocompatible, namely, they are non-toxic to biological systems, and many such polymers are known. Such polymers may be hydrophobic or hydrophilic in nature, biodegradable, non-biodegradable, or a combination thereof. These polymers include natural polymers (such as collagen, gelatin, cellulose, hyaluronic acid), as well as synthetic polymers (such as poly esters, polyorthoesters, polyanhydrides). Examples of hydrophobic non-degradable polymers

include polydimethyl siloxanes, polyurethanes, polytetrafluoroethylenes, polyethylenes, polyvinyl chlorides, and polymethyl methaerylates. Examples of hydrophilic non-degradable polymers include poly(2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate), polyvinyl alcohol, poly(N-vinyl pyrrolidone), polyalkylenes, polyacrylamide, and copolymers thereof.

Preferred polymers comprise as a sequential repeat unit ethylene oxide, such as polyethylene glycol (PEG).

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Any accepted mode of administration can be used and determined by those skilled in the art to establish the desired blood levels of the active ingredients. For example, administration may be by various parenteral routes such as subcutaneous, intravenous, intradermal, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intranasal, transdermal, oral, or buccal routes. The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can also be administered in sustained or controlled release dosage forms, including depot injections, osmotic pumps, and the like, for the prolonged administration of the polypeptide at a predetermined rate, preferably in unit dosage forms suitable for single administration of precise dosages.

Parenteral administration can be by bolus injection or by gradual perfusion over time. Preparations for parenteral administration include sterile aqueous or non-aqueous solutions, suspensions, and emulsions, which may contain auxiliary agents or excipients known in the art, and can be prepared according to routine methods. In addition, suspension of the active compounds as appropriate oily injection suspensions may be administered. Suitable lipophilic solvents or vehicles include fatty oils, for example, sesame oil, or synthetic fatty acid esters, for example, sesame oil, or synthetic fatty acid esters, for example, ethyl oleate or triglycerides. Aqueous injection suspensions that may contain substances increasing the viscosity of the suspension include, for example, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, sorbitol, and/or dextran.

Optionally, the suspension may also contain stabilizers. Pharmaceutical compositions include suitable solutions for administration by injection, and contain from about 0.01 to 99.99 percent, preferably from about 20 to 75 percent of active compound together with the excipient.

The wording "therapeutically effective amount" refers to an amount of the active ingredients that is sufficient to affect the course and the severity of the disease, leading to the reduction or remission of such pathology. The effective amount will depend on the route of administration and the condition of the patient.

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The wording "pharmaceutically acceptable" is meant to encompass any carrier, which does not interfere with the effectiveness of the biological activity of the active ingredient and that is not toxic to the host to which is administered. For example, for parenteral administration, the above active ingredients may be formulated in unit dosage form for injection in vehicles such as saline, dextrose solution, serum albumin and Ringer's solution. Carriers can be selected also from starch, cellulose, talc, glucose, lactose, sucrose, gelatin, malt, rice, flour, chalk, silica gel, magnesium stearate, sodium stearate, glycerol monostearate, sodium chloride, dried skim milk, glycerol, propylene glycol, water, ethanol, and the various oils, including those of petroleum, animal, vegetable or synthetic origin (peanut oil, soybean oil, mineral oil, sesame oil).

It is understood that the dosage administered will be dependent upon the age, sex, health, and weight of the recipient, kind of concurrent treatment, if any, frequency of treatment, and the nature of the effect desired. The dosage will be tailored to the individual subject, as is understood and determinable by one of skill in the art. The total dose required for each treatment may be administered by multiple doses or in a single dose. The pharmaceutical composition of the present invention may be administered

alone or in conjunction with other therapeutics directed to the condition, or directed to other symptoms of the condition. Usually a daily dosage of active ingredient is comprised between 0.01 to 100 milligrams per kilogram of body weight per day.

Ordinarily 1 to 40 milligrams per kilogram per day given in divided doses or in sustained release form is effective to obtain the desired results. Second or subsequent administrations can be performed at a dosage, which is the same, less than, or greater than the initial or previous dose administered to the individual.

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Apart from the methods having a therapeutic or a production purpose, several other methods can make use of the INSP037-like polypeptides and of the related reagents disclosed in the present patent application.

In a first example, a method for screening candidate compounds effective to treat a disease related to a INSP037-like polypeptides of the invention, comprises:

- (a) contacting host cells expressing such polypeptide, transgenic non-human animals, or transgenic animal cells having enhanced or reduced expression levels of the polypeptide, with a candidate compound and
- (b) determining the effect of the compound on the animal or on the cell.

  In a second example, a method for identifying a candidate compound as an

antagonist/inhibitor or agonist/activator of a polypeptide of the invention comprises:

- (a) contacting the polypeptide, the compound, and a mammalian cell or a mammalian cell membrane; and
- (b) measuring whether the molecule blocks or enhances the interaction of the polypeptide, or the response that results from such interaction, with the mammalian cell or the mammalian cell membrane.

In a third example, methods for determining the activity and/or the presence of the polypeptide of the invention in a sample, can detect either the polypeptide or the encoding RNA/DNA. Thus, such a method comprises:

- (a) providing a protein-containing sample;
- (b) contacting said sample with a ligand of the invention; and
- (c) determining the presence of said ligand bound to said polypeptide, thereby determining the activity and/or the presence of polypeptide in said sample.

Alternatively, the method comprises:

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- (a) providing a nucleic acids-containing sample;
- (b) contacting said sample with a nucleic acid of the invention; and
- (c) determining the hybridization of said nucleic acid with a nucleic acid into the sample, thereby determining the presence of the nucleic acid in the sample.

In this sense, primer sequences containing the sequences SEQ ID NO: 41-78 (Table III) can be used as well for determining the presence or the amount of a transcript or of a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide of invention in a sample by means of Polymerase Chain Reaction amplification.

A further object of the present invention are kits for measuring the activity and/or the presence of INSP037-like polypeptide of the invention in a sample comprising one or more of the reagents disclosed in the present patent application: a INSP037-like polypeptide of the invention, a ligand, a peptide mimetic, an isolated nucleic acid or vector, a pharmaceutical composition, an expressing cell, a compound increasing or decreasing the expression levels, and/or primer sequences containing any of the sequences SEQ ID NO: 41-78.

Those kits can be used for *in vitro* diagnostic or screenings methods, and their actual composition should be adapted to the specific format of the sample (e.g.

biological sample tissue from a patient), and the molecular species to be measured. For example, if it is desired to measure the concentration of the INSP037-like polypeptide, the kit may contain an antibody and the corresponding protein in a purified form to compare the signal obtained in Western blot. Alternatively, if it is desired to measure the concentration of the transcript for the INSP037-likepolypeptide, the kit may contain a specific nucleic acid probe designed on the corresponding ORF sequence, or may be in the form of nucleic acid array containing such probe, or the primer sequences disclosed as SEQ ID NO: 41-78 (Table III). The kits can be also in the form of protein-, peptide mimetic-, or cell-based microarrays (Templin MF et al., 2002; Pellois JP et al., 2002; Blagoev B and Pandey A, 2001), allowing high -throughput proteomics studies, by making use of the proteins, peptide mimetics and cells disclosed in the present patent application.

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All publications, patents and patent applications cited herein are incorporated in full by reference for any purpose.

The invention will now be described with reference to the specific embodiments by means of the following Examples, which should not be construed as in any way limiting the present invention. The content of the description comprises all modifications and substitutions which can be practiced by a person skilled in the art in light of the above teachings and, therefore, without extending beyond the meaning and purpose of the claims.

**EXAMPLES** 

## Example 1: Selection of open reading frames (ORFs) encoding for polypeptides homologous to INSP037

INSP037 was identified as an IFNgamma-like protein encoded by an ORF in human genome (GB patent application No. 0130720.6). The sequence of this ORF was used to search for homologous ORFs in human genome (Celera and GenBank databases). The homology was detected using the BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool; NCBI version 2), an algorithm which generates local alignments between a query and a hit sequence (Gish W and States DJ, 1993; Pearson WR and Miller W, 1992; Altschul SF et al., 1990). In this case the TBLASTN algorithm was used with the INSP037 protein sequence as a query. TBLASTN compares the query sequence to the database translated into 6 frames and can therefore identify a protein match to a DNA sequence in any reading frame. BLAST parameters used were: Comparison matrix = BLOSUM62; word length = 3; .E value cutoff = 10; Gap opening and extension = default; No filter.

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The pattern of the homologous regions were extracted from the BLAST output file using a script written in PERL (Practical Extraction and Report Language), a programming language having powerful pattern matching functions into large text data files allowing the extraction of information from genomic DNA sequences, starting from an alpha-numerical expression describing a defined consensus sequence (Stein LD, 2001). Another PERL script was used to retrieve the entire ORFs having such INSP037-like features, extending the sequence 5' to the first potential start methionine and 3' to the first stop codon.

A total of 20 ORFs out of the 93 hits matching the original query generated on the basis of INSP037 protein sequence were selected since they have a start Methionine and a stop codon separated by between 75 and 150 codons. IFNFHs selected DNA

sequences (SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39), belong to different human chromosomes, potentially encode for protein sequences (SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40) having a significant homology with INSP037 (BLAST E value minor or equal to 7e<sup>-23</sup>), with level of identity comprised between 67% and 78.5% (figures 1-20). The novelty of the protein sequences was assessed by searching protein databases (SwissProt/Trembl and Derwent GENESEQ) using BLAST.

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Amongst these sequences characterized as novel INSP037-like polypeptides, three of them (pIFNFH04, pIFNFH32, and pIFNFH20) are less than 10% longer than INSP037, while all the other sequences more than 10% longer due to an extended C-terminal region (pIFNFH08, pIFNFH12, pIFNFH25, pIFNFH36, pIFNFH37, pIFNFH23, pIFNFH27, pIFNFH14, pIFNFH01, pIFNFH10, pIFNFH11, pIFNFH13, pIFNFH31, pIFNFH03, and pIFNFH15), or to extended N-terminal and C-terminal regions (pIFNFH39 and pIFNFH42). The extended C-terminal regions present some significant local homologies amongst the different IFNFHs (figure 21). Even if not directly identified in figures 1-20, at least some of the selected polypeptides contain a functional signal peptide (Example 3).

#### Example 2: Cloning of the novel INSP037-like ORFs from human genomic DNA

The selected IFNFH sequences (with the exception of IFNFH25) were cloned from human genomic DNA into a cloning vector, and then transferred into an expression vector using Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), with pairs of forward/reverse primers specific for each ORF (see arrows in figures 1-12 and 14-20).

The cloning primers (CL series; SEQ ID NO: 41-78, Table III), containing from 21 to 30 nucleotides, were designed for amplifying each ORF using human genomic DNA

as template, since all ORFs are uninterrupted on human chromosomes. The forward primers start from three nucleotides before initial ATG. The reverse primers are complementary to the 3' end of the ORF, including the stop codon. Being the N-terminal sequences very similar amongst the different IFNFHs, the reverse primers actually are actually responsible for the specificity of the amplification reaction.

The PCR was performed by mixing the following components in each ORF-specific reaction (total volume of 50  $\mu$ l in double-distilled water):

150 ng human genomic DNA (Clontech)

1.2  $\mu$ M primers (0.6  $\mu$ M each primer)

240 μM dNTP (Invitrogen)

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0.5 μl AmpliTaq (2.5 Units; Applied Biosystems)

5 AmpliTaq buffer 10X (Applied Biosystems)

The PCR reactions were performed using an initial denaturing step if 94 °C for 2 minutes, followed by 30 cycles:

94°C for 30 seconds

55°C for 30 seconds

72°C for 30 seconds

After a final elongation step of 72°C for 10 minutes, the PCR products were directly subcloned into the pCRII-TOPO vector using the TOPO<sup>TM</sup> cloning system (Invitrogen), according to manufacturer's standard protocol. The TOPO cloning system is a variation of the TA cloning system allowing the rapid cloning of PCR products, taking advantage from the fact that Taq polymerase leaves a single Adenosine at the 3' end of PCR products. Since the TOPO vector has single-stranded Thymine overhangs, Topoisomerase I enzyme is able to join the T-ends of the vector to the A-overhangs of the PCR product, which can be used without any purification step.

The resulting plasmids (pCRTOPO-ORF series) were used to transform *E. coli* cells (TOP10F', Invitrogen, supplied with the TOPO TA Cloning Kit), obtaining several clones for each ORF. Plasmid DNA was isolated using a commercial kit (WIZARD Plasmid Minipreps: Promega) and sequenced to verify the Identity of the amplified and cloned sequence with the originally selected human genomic DNA sequence.

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The plasmids containing the desired sequences were used in a further round of PCR reactions necessary for transferring the ORFs into the expression vector pEAK12D (figure 22), which allows the expression of the cloned insert under the control of EF-1 $\alpha$  promoter and in frame with a 6-His Tag sequence, using the Gateway cloning system (Invitrogen).

The expression vector pEAK12D was constructed by modifying pEAK12 (Edge Biosystems). This vector was digested with HindIII and NotI, made blunt ended with Klenow and dephosphorylated using calf-intestinal alkaline phosphatase. After dephosphorylation, the vector was ligated to blunt ended Gateway reading frame cassette C (Gateway vector conversion system, Invitrogen cat no. 11828-019) which contains AttR recombination sites flanking the ccdB gene (marker for negative selction of non-recombinant plasmids) and chloramphenicol resistance. The resulting plasmids were used to transform DB3.1 *E. coli* cells, which allow propagation of vectors containing the ccdB gene. Miniprep DNA was isolated from several of the resultant colonies and digested with Asel / EcoRI to identify clones yielding a 670 bp fragment, obtainable only when the cassette had been inserted in the correct orientation. The resultant plasmid was called pEAK12D.

Two series of primers were designed to add the ATTB1 and ATTB2 recombination sites (necessary for the integration in the expression vector) at the 5' and 3' end, respectively, of the ORF-containing insert. In the first series of primers

(EX1 series; SEQ ID NO: 79-116, Table IV), the original ORF-specific CL primers were modified by adding, at the 5' end, the sequence AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC (for forward primers) or GTGATGGTGATGGTG (for reverse primers, but after eliminating the nucleotides complementary to the stop codon). In the second series of primers (EX2 series; SEQ ID NO: 117-154, Table V), the original ORF-specific CL primers were modified by adding, at the 5' end, the sequence GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGC AGGCTTCGCCACC (for forward primers) or GGGGACCACTTTGTACAAGAAAGCTG GGTTTCAATGGTGATGGTGATGGTG (for reverse primers, but after eliminating the nucleotides complementary to the stop codon). These reverse primers contain the codons for the 6-His tag which result fused in frame with the ORFs at their C-terminal end.

The PCR amplification was performed in 2 consecutive reactions. The first one was performed by mixing the following components (total volume 50  $\mu$ l in double-distilled water):

25 ng pCRTOPO-ORF vector

5mM dNTP (Invitrogen)

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0.5 µl Pfx DNA polymerase (Invitrogen)

0.5 μl each EX1 primer (100μM)

5μl 10X Pfx polymerase buffer (Invitrogen)

The PCR reactions were performed using an initial denaturing step of 95°C for 2 minutes, followed by 10 cycles:

94°C for 15 seconds

68°C for 30 seconds

The PCR products were purified using the Wizard PCR prep DNA purification system (Promega), and added as templates in a second PCR reaction including the following components (total volume 50 µl in double-distilled water):

10 µl purified PCR product

5 5mM dNTP (Invitrogen)

0.5 μl Pfx DNA polymerase (invitrogen)

0.5 µl each EX2 primer (100µM)

5μl 10X Pfx polymerase buffer (Invitrogen)

The PCR reactions were performed an initial denaturing step of 95°C for 1 minute, followed by 4 cycles:

94°C for 15 seconds

50°C for 30 seconds

68°C for 3 minutes 30 seconds

Then the following conditions were applied for 25 cycles:

94°C for 15 seconds

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55°C for 30 seconds

68°C for 3 minutes 30 seconds.

The DNA fragments resulting from the PCR reactions were purified as described before and recombined into the pEAK12D vector using the Gateway system.

 $1.5 \mu$ l

20 First, the following 10 μl reactions were assembled:

BP enzyme mix

pDONR-201 (0.1 μg/μl)	1.5	μΙ
PCR product	5	μl
BP buffer	2	μl

After being incubated at room temperature for 1 hour, the reaction was stopped by adding proteinase K (1  $\mu$ I, 2  $\mu$ g) and incubating at 37  $^{\circ}$ C for further 10 minutes.

An aliquot of this reaction (2  $\mu$ I) was used for transforming *E. coli* cells (strain DH10B) by electroporation. Plasmid DNA was prepared for 4 clones for each ORF and used for parallel 10  $\mu$ I recombination reactions containing:

	pEAK12D (0.1 μg / μl)	1.5 µl
•	Plasmid DNA	1.5 µÌ
	ddH20	3.5 µl
	LR buffer	2 µl
10	LR enzyme mix	1.5 µl

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After being incubated at room temperature for 1 hour, the reaction was stopped by adding proteinase K (1 μl, 2 μg) and incubating at 37°C for further 10 minutes. An aliquot of this reaction (1 μl) was used for transforming DH10B *E. coli* cells by electroporation. The clones containing the correct insert were identified first by performing colony PCR on 3 colonies using the forward and reverse vector primers pEAK12D F1 (GCCAGCTTGGCACTTGATGT) and pEAK12D R1 (GATGGAGGTGGA CGTGTCAG), then confirmed by sequencing the insert with the same primer.

# Example 3: Expression and purification of the His-tagged INSP037-like polypeptides in Mammalian cells

The vectors generated in Example 2 were used to express pIFNFHs in Human Embryonic Kidney cells expressing the Epstein-Barr virus Nuclear Antigen (cell line HEK293-EBNA).

The cells were seeded in T225 flasks (50 ml at a density of 2x10 <sup>5</sup> cells/ml) from 16 to 20 hours prior to transfection, which was performed using the cationic polymer

reagent JetPEI<sup>TM</sup> (PolyPlus-transfection; 2 μl/μg of plasmid DNA). For each flask, 113 μg of the ORF-specific pEAK12D plasmid, which were prepared using CsCl (Sambrook, J et al. "Molecular Cloning, a laboratory manual"; 2nd edition. 1989; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press), were co-transfected with 2.3 μg of a plasmid acting as positive control since it expresses Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) in a constitutive manner. The plasmids, diluted in 230 μl of JetPEI<sup>TM</sup> solution, were added to 4.6 ml of NaCl 150 mM, vortexed and incubated for 30 minutes at room temperature. This transfection mix was then added to the T225 flask and incubated at 37 °C for 6 days. An aliquot of the cultures was then exposed to UV irrad lation to check the transfection efficiency by evaluating GFP fluorescence.

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Culture medium from HEK293-EBNA cells transfected with the ORF-specific pEAK12D plasmids were pooled and 100 ml of the medium were diluted to 200 ml with 100 ml of ice-cold buffer A (50 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>; 600 mM NaCl; 8.7 % (w/v) glycerol, pH 7.5), which is the same buffer used for equilibrating the affinity column on which Histagged proteins were subsequently immobilized and eluted. The solution was filtered through a 0.22 µm sterile filter (Millipore) and kept at 4°C in 250 ml sterile square media bottles until further processing.

Two consecutive chromatography procedures were applied to the samples using an HPLC-based system (Perfusion Chromatography<sup>™</sup>, PerSeptive Biosystems) including a VISION workstation (BioCAD<sup>™</sup> series), POROS<sup>™</sup> chromatographic media, and an external 250 ml-sample loader (Labomatic), all kept at 4°C.

In the first chromatography step, a Ni-metal affinity column (0.83 ml, POROS 20 MC) was first regenerated with 30 column volumes of EDTA solution (100 mM EDTA; 1 M NaCl; pH 8.0), and then recharged with Ni ions through washing with 15 column volumes of the Ni solution (100 mM NiSO<sub>4</sub>). The column is subsequently washed with

10 column volumes of buffer A, 7 column volumes of buffer B (50 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>; 600 mM NaCl; 8.7 % (w/v) glycerol, 400 mM; imidazole, pH 7.5), and finally equilibrated with 15 column volumes of buffer A containing 15 mM imidazole. The sample loader charged the protein-containing solution onto the Ni metal affinity column at a flow rate of 10 ml/min. The column was then washed with 12 column volumes of Buffer A, followed by 28 column volumes of Buffer A containing a concentration of imidazole (20 mM) allowing the elution of contaminating proteins that are loosely attached to the Nicolumn. The His-tagged protein is finally eluted with 10 column volumes of Buffer B at a flow rate of 2 ml/min, collecting collected 1.6 ml fractions.

In the second chromatography step, a gel-filtration column (10 ml G-25 Sephadex) was regenerated with 2 ml of buffer D (137 mM NaCl; 2.7 mM KCl; 1.5 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>; 8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>; 1 M NaCl; pH 7.2), and then equilibrated with 2 column volumes of buffer C (137 mM NaCl; 2.7 mM KCl; 1.5 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>; 8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>; 20 % (w/v) glycerol; pH 7.4) before injecting the Ni-column peak fractions onto this column. The sample is eluted with buffer C and the desalted sample is recovered in 2.2 ml fractions.

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The peak fractions from the gel-filtration column were then analyzed for their protein content using SDS-PAGE and the parallel detection by Coomassie staining and by Western blot with antibodies recognizing His-tags.

The fractions were filtered through a 0.22 µm sterile centrifugation filter (Millipore) and aliquots (20 µl) were analyzed on SDS-PAGE (4-12 % NuPAGE gel; Novex). Protein concentrations were determined in the samples that show detectable protein bands by Coomassie staining, using the BCA Protein Assay kit (Pierce) and Bovine Serum Albumin as standard. The gel for the Western blot analysis was electrotransferred to a nitrocellulose membrane at 290 mA at 4°C for 1 hour. The

membrane was blocked with 5 % milk powder in PBS (137 mM NaCl; 2.7 mM KCl; 1.5 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>; 8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>;pH 7.4), and subsequently incubated with a mixture of 2 rabbit polyclonal anti-His antibodies (G-18 and H-15, 0.2 μg/ml each; Santa Cruz) at 4°C overnight. After a further 1 hour incubation at room temperature, the membrane was washed with PBS containing 0.1% Tween -20 (3 x 10 min), and then exposed to a secondary Horse-Radish Peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated anti-rabbit antibody (DAKO) at room temperature for 2 hours. After washing in PBS containing 0.1% Tween -20 (3 x 10 minutes), the ECL kit (Amersham Pharmacia) was used to detect the antibodies immobilized onto the membrane, comparing the film with the image of the Coomassie stained gel.

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By making use of the above described protocol of protein expression and purification, the presence of sequences allowing secretion into the protein sequences encoded from the cloned ORFs was demonstrated for pIFNFH15, pIFNFH23, pIFNFH32, and pIFNFH42, which were efficiently purified from the culture medium of the transfected mammalian cells as His-tagged proteins.

## Example 4: Cell- and Animal-based assay for the validation and characterization of the INSP037-like polypeptides.

Several assays have been developed for testing specificity, potency, and efficacy of IFNgamma using cell cultures or animal models, as extensively reviewed (Younes HM and Amsden BG, 2002; Boehm U et al., 1997). Other examples of literature providing examples of human IFNgamma activities are the patent applications disclosing IFNgamma variants (WO 02/81507) or the several therapeutic activities of IFNgamma, alone or in combination with other compounds (WO 95/22328, WO 01/34180, WO 90/03189, EP607258, EP696639, EP490250, EP502997). This prior art

provides reliable guidance on how to identify any human IFNgamma activity of the polypeptides of the invention.

Many assays and technologies for generating useful tools and products (antibodies, transgenic animals, radiolabeled proteins, etc.) have been also described in connection to human IFNgamma and/or its receptor (Arai C et al., 1999; Dow SW et al., 1999; Akbar S et al., 1999; Popko B and Baerwald KD, 1999; Zanti N et al., 1998; Sethi SK et al., 1997; Young HA, 1997; Bach EA et al., 1997). They can be used to verify the expression and the mechanisms of action of the polypeptides of the invention homologous to INSP037 and related reagents, in connection with possible therapeutic or diagnostic methods and uses.

TABLE I

Amino Acid	Synonymous Groups	More Preferred Synonymous Groups
Ser	Gly, Ala, Ser, Thr, Pro	Thr, Ser
Arg	Asn, Lys, Gln, Arg, His	Arg, Lys, His
Leu	Phe, Ile, Val, Leu, Met	Ile, Val, Leu, Met
Pro	Gly, Ala, Ser, Thr, Pro	Pro
Thr	Gly, Ala, Ser, Thr, Pro	Thr, Ser
Ala	Gly, Thr, Pro, Ala, Ser	Gly, Ala
Val	Met, Phe, Ile, Leu, Val	Met, Ile, Val, Leu
Gly	Ala, Thr, Pro, Ser, Gly	Gly, Ala
lle	Phe, Ile, Val, Leu, Met	lle, Val, Leu, Met
Phe	Trp, Phe,Tyr	Tyr, Phe
Tyr	Trp, Phe,Tyr	Phe, Tyr
Cys	Ser, Thr, Cys	Cys
His	Asn, Lys, Gln, Arg, His	Arg, Lys, His
Gln	Glu, Asn, Asp, Gln	Asn, Gln
Asn	Glu, Asn, Asp, Gln	Asn, Gln
Lys	Asn, Lys, Gln, Arg, His	Arg, Lys, His
Asp	Glu, Asn, Asp, Gln	Asp, Glu
Glu	Glu, Asn, Asp, Gln	Asp, Glu
Met	Phe, Ile, Val, Leu, Met	lle, Val, Leu, Met
Trp	Trp, Phe,Tyr	Trp

**TABLE II** 

Amino Acid	Synonymous Groups
Ser	D-Ser, Thr, D-Thr, allo-Thr, Met, D-Met, Met(O), D-Met(O), L-Cys, D-Cys
Arg	D-Arg, Lys, D-Lys, homo-Arg, D-homo-Arg, Met, Ile, DMet, D-Ile, Orn, D-Om
Leu	D-Leu, Val, D-Val, AdaA, AdaG, Leu, D-Leu, Met, D-Met
Pro	D-Pro, L-I-thioazolidine-4-carboxylic acid, D-or L-1-oxazolidine-4-carboxylic acid
Thr	D-Thr, Ser, D-Ser, allo-Thr, Met, D-Met, Met(O), D-Met(O), Val, D-Val
Ala	D-Ala, Gly, Aib, B-Ala, Acp, L-Cys, D-Cys
Val	D-Val, Leu, D-Leu, Ile, D-Ile, Met, D-Met, AdaA, AdaG
Gly	Ala, D-Ala, Pro, D-Pro, Aib, .betaAla, Acp
lle	D-Ile, Val, D-Val, AdaA, AdaG, Leu, D-Leu, Met, D-Met
Phe	D-Phe, Tyr, D-Thr, L-Dopa, His, D-His, Trp, D-Trp, Trans-3,4, or 5-phenylproline, AdaA, AdaG, cis-3,4, or 5-phenylproline, Bpa, D-Bpa
Tyr	D-Tyr, Phe, D-Phe, L-Dopa, His, D-His
Cys	D-Cys, S-Me-Cys, Met, D-Met, Thr, D-Thr
Gin	D-Gln, Asn, D-Asn, Glu, D-Glu, Asp, D-Asp
Asn	D-Asn, Asp, D-Asp, Glu, D-Glu, Gln, D-Gln
Lys	D-Lys, Arg, D-Arg, homo-Arg, D-homo-Arg, Met, D-Met, Ile, D-Ile, Om, D-Om
Asp	D-Asp, D-Asn, Asn, Glu, D-Glu, Gln, D-Gln
Glu	D-Glu, D-Asp, Asp, Asn, D-Asn, Gln, D-Gln
Met	D-Met, S-MeCys, Ile, D-Ile, Leu, D-Leu, Val, D-Val

**TABLE III** 

TABLE III			
SEQ ID NO:	NAME	DIRECTION	5'-3' SEQUENCE
41	CL_IFNFH01_5	Forward	AACATGACCTCACCAAATAAAC
42	CL_IFNFH01_3	Reverse	TCATTTTTTTTATTCCTTTTCTTTTGTC
43	CL_IFNFH03_5	Forward	AACATGACATCACCAAATGAG
44	CL_IFNFH03_3	Reverse	TTACAGGTGCCTGCCACTGCAC
45	CL_IFNFH04_5	Forward	AACATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
46	CL_IFNFH04_3	Reverse	TCAAGAGACT GATGCATTCTTTAG
47	CL_IFNFH08_5	Forward	AACATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
48	CL_IFNFH08_3	Reverse	CTAATTCCGATTAATTCTACTATG
49	CL_IFNFH10_5	Forward	AACATGACCTCACCAAATGAG
50	CL_IFNFH10_3	Reverse	TCATTGTTTTTTGTTTTTTGGTC
51	CL_IFNFH11_5	Forward	CACATGACCTCAGGAAATGA AG
52	CL_IFNFH11_3	Reverse	TTATTGTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT
53	CL_IFNFH12_5	Forward	AACATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
54	CL_IFNFH12_3	Reverse	TCAATCAGTTCTGCTATTAAAAAACTC
55	CL_IFNFH13_5	Forward	AACATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
56	CL_IFNFH13_3	Reverse	TTAGGTGTGCTTCATTCTTTTATATT TTTT
57	CL_IFNFH14_5	Forward	AACATGACATCAACAAAGGAAC
58	CL_IFNFH14_3	Reverse	TTATATTCTTTTTCTCTCTGACTG
59	CL_IFNFH15_5	Forward	AATATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
60	CL_IFNFH15_3	Reverse	CTATTTAAGGCCAATAACTTTTAG
61	CL_IFNFH20_5	Forward	AACATGCCCTTACCAAATGAGC
62	CL_IFNFH20_3	Reverse	CTATGATGCATTCTTCATTATAC
63	CL_IFNFH23_5	Forward	AACATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
64	CL_IFN FH23_3	Reverse	CTATATACTTTCAAATAGCCTGTC
65	CL_IFNFH27_5	Forward	AACATGACCTCGCCTAATGAAC
66	CL_IFNFH27_3	Reverse	TTAGTTTGCTTCCTCTGACTG
67	CL_IFNFH31_5	Forward	AATATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
68	CL_IFNFH31_3	1	CTAATACATGCTTCTTTTTTTTTTT
69	CL_IFNFH32_5	Forward	AACATGACCTCACCAAATAAAC
70	CL_IFNFH32_3	Reverse	TCAGTATGCCAGTTGATTTTCAGC
71	CL_IFNFH36_5	Forward	AACATGACCTCACCAAACAAAC
72	CL_IFNFH36_3	Reverse	TTATTCTGCTCAATTCTGC
73	CL_IFNFH37_5	Forward	AACATGACCTCACTAAATGAAC
74	CL_IFNFH37_3	Reverse	CTAATTCTTTTTTTCTGCTCCATAAATTC
75	CL_IFNFH39_5	Forward	TCAATGGCCAGACACCTACAAAC
76	CL_IFNFH39_3	Reverse	TCATTCTTCTACTTGATTAATTCTAC
77	CL_IFNFH42_5	Forward	TCAATG CCAAGACACCAAAGAAC
78	CL_IFNFH42_3	Reverse	CTAATTCTTCTTCTACTCGATCC

**TABLE IV** 

SEQ ID NO:	NAME	DIRECTION	5'-3' SEQUENCE
79	EX1_IFNFH01_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATGACCTCACCAAATAAAC
80	EX1_IFNFH01_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG TTTTTTTTTTTTCCTTTTCTTTTGTC
81	EX1_IFNFH03_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATGACATCACCAAATGAG
82	EX1_IFNFH03_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG CAGGTGCCTGCACTGCAC
83	EX1_IFNFH04_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC ATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
84	EX1_IFNFH04_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG AGAGACTGATGCATTCTTTAG
85	EX1_IFNFH08_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
- 86	EX1_IFNFH08_3	Reverse ·	GTGATGGTGATGGTG ATTCCGATTAATTCTACTATG ····
87	EX1_IFNFH10_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATGACCTCACCAAATGAG
88	EX1_IFNFH10_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG TTGTTTTTTGTTTTTTTGGTC
89	EX1_IFNFH11_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC CACATGACCTCAGGAAATGAAG
90	EX1_IFNFH11_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG TTGTTTTTTATTCTTTTTTTTTTT
91	EX1_IFNFH12_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
92	EX1_IFNFH12_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG ATCAGTTCTGCTATTAAAA AACTC
93	EX1_IFNFH13_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
94	EX1_IFNFH13_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG GGTGTGCTTCATTCTTTTATATTTTTT
95	EX1_IFNFH14_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATGACATCAACAAAGGAAC
96	EX1_IFNFH14_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG TATTCTTT TTTCTCTTCTGACTG
97	EX1_IFNFH15_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AATATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
98	EX1_IFNFH15_3	Reverse .	GTGATGGTGATGGTG TTTAAGGCCAATAACTTTTAG
99	EX1_IFNFH20_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATGCCCTTACCAAATGAGC
100	EX1_IFNFH20_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG TGATGCATTCTTCATTATAC
101	EX1_IFNFH23_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
102	EX1_IFNFH23_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG TATACTTTCAAATAGCCTGTC
103	EX1_IFNFH27_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATGACCTCGCCTAATGAAC
104	EX1_IFNFH27_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGG TGGTTTGCTTCCTCTGACTG
105	EX1_IFNFH31_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AATATGACCTCACCAAATGAAC
106	EX1_IFNFH31_3	Reverse ·	GTGATGGTGATGGTG ATACATGCTTCTTTTTTTTTTTTG
107	EX1_IFNFH32_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATGACCTCACCAAATAAAC
108	EX1_IFNFH32_3	Reverse	GTGATGGT GATGGTG GTATGCCAGTTGATTTTCAGC
109	EX1_IFNFH36_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATGACCTCACCAAACAAAC
110	EX1_IFNFH36_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG TTCTGCTTGCTCAATTCTGC
111	EX1_IFNFH37_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATGACCTCACTAAATGAAC
112	EX1_IFNFH37_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG ATTCTTTTTTTCTGCTCCATAAATTC
113	EX1_IFNFH39_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC TCAATGGCCAGACACCTACAAAC
114	EX1_IFNFH39_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG TTCTTCTACTTGATTAATTCTAC
115	EX1_IFNFH42_5	Forward	AAGCAGGCTTCGCCACCTCAATGCCAAGACACCAAAGAAC
116	EX1_IFNFH42_3	Reverse	GTGATGGTGATGGTG ATTCTTCTTTTCTACTCGATCC
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#### **TABLE V**

SEQ ID NO:	NAME	DIRECTION	5'-3' SEQUENCE
117	EX2 IFNFH01 5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATG
			ACCTCACCAAATAAAC
118	EX2_IFNFH01_3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTG ATGG TGATGGTGTTTTTTTTTATTCCTTTTCTTTTGTC
119	EX2_IFNFH03_5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATG ACATCACCAAATGAG
120	EX2 IFNFH03 3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG
			TGATGGTGCAGGTGCCTGCCACTGCAC
121	EX2_IFNFH04_5	Forward	GGGGAC AAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATG ACCTCACCAAATGAAC
122	EX2_IFNFH04_3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG TGATGGTGAGAGACTGATGCATTCTTTAG
123	EX2 IFNFH08 5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATG
			ACCTCACCAAATGAAC
124	EX2_IFNFH08_3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG TGATGGTGATTCCGATTAATTCTACTATG
125	EX2_IFNFH10_5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATG
123	DAZ_IIMIHIO_9	101,1010	ACCTCACCAAATGAG
126	EX2_IFNFH10_3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACAAGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATG
			GTGATGGTGTTTTTTTGTTGTTTTTTGGTC
127	EX2_IFNFH11_5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC CACATG ACCTCAGGAAATGAAG
120	EX2_IFNFH11_3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACAAGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATG
128	EVS_IENEUTI_2	Keverse	GTGATGGTGTTTTTTTATTCTTTTTCTTTTG
129	EX2 IFNFH12 5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAG CAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATG
123	EVSTIENT 1175 -2	TOLWALA	ACCTCACCAAATGAAC
130	EX2_IFNFH12_3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG
			TGATGGTGATCAGTTCTGCTATTAAAAAACTC
131	EX2_IFNFH13_5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATG ACCTCACCAAATGAAC
132	EX2 IFNFH13 3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG
132	B.12_11.11.11.10_0	1.0.0200	TGATGGTGGGTGCTTCATTCTTTTATATTTTTT
133	EX2_IFNFH14_5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATG
			ACATCAACAAAGGAAC
134	EX2_IFNFH14_3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACAAGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATG
	<u> </u>		GTGATGGTGTATTCTTTTTTCTCTTTTGACTG
135	EX2_IFNFH15_5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AATATG ACCTCACCAAATGAAC
126	EV2 TENEU15 3	Borrowso	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG
136	EX2_IFNFH15_3	Reverse	TGATGGTGTTTAAGGCCAATAACTTTTAG
137	EX2 IFNFH20 5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCG CCACCAACATG
			CCCTTACCAAATGAGC
138	EX2_IFNFH20_3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG TGATGGTGTGATGCATTCTTCATTATAC
139	EX2 IFNFH23 5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACCAACATG
139	EXZ_IFNEBZS_S	FOLWARG	ACCTCACCAAATGAAC
140	EX2 IFNFH23 3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTA CAAGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG
			TGATGGTGTATACTTTCAAATAGCCTGTC
141	EX2_IFNFH27_5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACCAACATG ACCTCGCCTAATGAAC
140	EX2 IFNFH27 3	Powers	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG
142	EVC_TENEDS/_3	Reverse	TGATGGTGGTTTGCTTCCTCTGACTG
143	EX2 IFNFH31 5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACCAATATG
		1	ACCTCACCAAATGAAC
144	EX2 IFNFH31 3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG
1			TGATGGTGATACATGCTTCTTTTTTTTTTTTT

## TABLE V (cont.)

SEQ ID NO:	NAME	DIRECTION	5' -3' Sequence
145	EX2 IFNFH32 5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACCAACATG
145	EVS_TENEU25_2	I OI WOI O	ACCTCACCAAATAAAC
146	EX2_IFNFH32_3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG
140	EVS_TENEU25	Keverbe	TGATGGTGGTATGCCAGTTGATTTTTCAGC
147	EX2 IFNFH36_5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATG
14/	EXZ_IENERSO_S	FOLHALA	ACCTCACCAAACAAAC
148	EX2 IFNFH36 3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG
140	EVS_TENEDOO	Keverbe	TGATGGTGTTCTGCTCAATTCTGC
149	EX2 IFNFH37_5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC AACATG
149	EVS_TENEU2, _2	TOTHUL	ACCTCACTAAATGAAC
150	EX2_IFNFH37_3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG
150	EXZ_IFMEDS/_S	Reverse	TGATGGTGATTCTTTTTTTCTGCTCCATAAATTC
151	EX2 IFNFH39_5	Forward	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACC TCAATG
121	EVS TENEU23	1014424	GCCAGACACCTACAAAC
152	EX2 IFNFH39_3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG
152	EVS_IENEU23_2	Reverse	TGATGGTGTTCTTCTACTTGATTAATTCTAC
153	EX2 IFNFH42_5	Forward	GGGGAC AAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTCGCCACCTCAAT
153	Eve_reneuas_	LOTMOTO	GCCAAGACACCAAAGAAC
154	EVO TEMENAO 3	Reverse	GGGGACCACTTTGTACA AGAAAGCTGGGTTTCAATGGTGATGG
154	EX2_IFNFH42_3	T.C.V.C.I.S.C.	TGATGGTGATTCTTCTTTCTACTCGATCC

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#### **CLAIMS**

 An isolated polypeptide at least one activity of human IFNgamma selected from the group consisting of:

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- a) amino acid sequences SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40;
- variants of the amino acid sequences SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16,
   18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40, which are at least 80% identical to said sequences;
- c) mature forms, active fragments, precursors, salts, or derivatives of the amino acid sequences given in a) or b).
- 2. The polypeptide of claim 1 that is a naturally occurring allelic variant of the sequences SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40.
- 3. The polypeptide of claim 2, wherein the variant is the translation of a single nucleotide polymorphism.
- 4. A fusion protein comprising a polypeptide according to any of the claims from 1 to3.
  - The fusion proteins of claim 4 wherein said proteins further comprise one or more amino acid sequence belonging to these protein sequences: membrane-bound protein, immunoglobulin constant region, multimerization domains, extracellular proteins, signal peptide-containing proteins, export signal-containing proteins.

- 6 A ligand binding specifically to a polypeptide according to claim 1.
- 7 The ligand of claim 6 that antagonizes or inhibits the IFNgamma-related activity of a polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 3.
  - A ligand according to claim 7 which is a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, a humanized antibody, an antigen binding fragment, or the extracellular domain of a membrane-bound protein.
  - The polypeptides of any of the claims from 1 to 8, wherein said polypeptides are in the form of active conjugates or complexes with a molecule chosen amongst radioactive labels, fluorescent labels, biotin, or cytotoxic agents.
- 15 10 A peptide mimetic designed on the sequence and/or the structure of a polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 3.
  - An isolated nucleic acid encoding for an isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) the polypeptides having at least one of the activity of human IFNgamma of any of the claims from 1 to 3;
    - b) the fusion proteins of claim 4 or 5.

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- 12. The nucleic acid of Claim 11, comprising a DNA sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39, or the complement of said DNA sequences.
- 5 13. A purified nucleic acid which:
  - a) hybridizes under high stringency conditions; or
  - b) exhibits at least about 85% identity over a stretch of at least about 30 nucleotides

with a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39, or a complement of said DNA sequences

- 14. A vector comprising a nucleic acid of any of Claims from 11 to 13.
- 15 15. The vector of claim 14, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to expression control sequences allowing expression in prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cells of the encoded polypeptide.
  - 16. A process for producing cells capable of expressing a polypeptide of any the claims from 1 to 3, comprising genetically engineering cells with a vector or a nucleic acid according to any of the claims from 11 to 15.
    - 17. A host cell transformed with a vector or a nucleic acid according to any of the claims from 11 to 15.

- 18. A transgenic animal cell that has been transformed with a vector or a nucleic acid according to any of the claims from 11 to 15, having enhanced or reduced expression levels of a polypeptide according to any one of claims from 1 to 3.
- 5 19. A transgenic non-human organism that has been transformed to have enhanced or reduced expression levels of a polypeptide according to any one of claims from 1 to 3.
- 20. A method for making a polypeptide of any the claims from 1 to 3 comprising culturing a cell of claim 17 or 18 under conditions in which the nucleic acid or vector is expressed, and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid or vector from cell culture.
- 21. A compound that enhances the expression level of a polypeptide according to any one of claims from 1 to 3 into a cell or in an animal.
  - 22. A compound that reduces the expression level of a polypeptide according to any one of claims from 1 to 3 into a cell or in an animal.
- 20 23. The compound of claim 22 that is an antisense oligonucleotide or a small interfering RNA.
  - 24. Purified preparations containing a polypeptide of any of the claims from 1 to 5 or claim 9, a ligand of any of the claims from 6 to 8, a peptide mimetic of claim

10, a nucleic acid of any of the claims from 11 to 15, a cell of claim 17 or 18, or a compound of any of the claims from 21 to 23.

- 25. Use of a polypeptide of any of the claims from 1 to 5 or claim 9, a peptide

  mimetic of claim 10, a nucleic acid of any of the claims from 11 to 15, a cell of
  claim 17 or 18, or a compound of claim 21, in the therapy or in the prevention of
  a disease when the increase in a human IFNgamma-related activity of a
  polypeptide of any of the claims from 1 to 3 is needed.
- 10 26. Pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment or prevention of diseases needing an increase in a human IFNgamma-related activity of polypeptide of any of the claims from 1 to 5 or claim 9, a peptide mimetic of claim 10, a nucleic acid of any of the claims from 11 to 15, a cell of claim 17 or 18, or a compound of claim 21, as active ingredient.

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27. Process for the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions, which comprises combining polypeptide of any of the claims from 1 to 5 or claim 9, a peptide mimetic of claim 10, a nucleic acid of any of the claims from 11 to 15, a cell of claim 17 or 18, or a compound of claim 21, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

28. Method for the treatment or prevention of diseases needing an increase in a human IFNgamma-related activity of a polypeptide of any of the claims from 1 to 3, comprising the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of polypeptide of any of the claims from 1 to 5 or claim 9, a peptide mimetic of

claim 10, a nucleic acid of any of the claims from 11 to 15, a cell of claim 17 or 18, or a compound of claim 21.

- Use of a ligand of any of the claims from 6 to 8, or of a compound of claim 22 or
  23, in the therapy or in the prevention of a disease associated to the excessive
  human IFNgamma-related activity of a polypeptide of any of the claims from 1
  to 3.
- 30. Pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment or prevention of a disease associated to the excessive human IFNgamma-related activity of a polypeptide of any of the claims from 1 to 3, containing a ligand of any of the claims from 6 to 8, or of a compound of claim 22 or 23, as active ingredient.
- 31. Process for the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment or prevention of diseases associated to the excessive human IFNgamma-related activity of a polypeptide of any of the claims from 1 to 3, which comprises combining a ligand of any of the claims from 6 to 8, or of a compound of claim 22 or 23, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 20 32. A method for the treatment or prevention of diseases related to the polypeptide of any of the claims from 1 to 3, comprising the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a ligand of any of the claims from 6 to 8, or of a compound of claim 22 or 23.

- 33. A method for screening candidate compounds effective to treat a disease related to the polypeptides of any of the claims from 1 to 3, comprising:
  - (a) contacting a cell of claim 17 or 18, or a transgenic non-human organism according to claim 19, having enhanced or reduced expression levels of the polypeptide, with a candidate compound; and
  - (b) determining the effect of the compound on the animal or on the cell.
- 34. A method for identifying a candidate compound as an antagonist/inhibitor or agonist/activator of a polypeptide of any of the claims 1 to 3 comprising:
  - (a) contacting said polypeptide, said compound, and a mammalian cell or a mammallian cell membrane capable of binding the polypeptide; and
  - (b) measuring whether the molecule blocks or enhances the interaction of the polypeptide, or the response that results from such interaction, with the mammalian cell or the mammalian cell membrane.

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- 35. A method for determining the activity and/or the presence of the polypeptide of any the claims from 1 to 34 in a sample, the method comprising:
  - (a) providing a protein-containing sample;
  - (b) contacting said sample with a ligand of any of the claims from 6 to 8; and
  - (c) determining the presence of said ligand bound to said polypeptide.
- 36. A method for determining the presence or the amount of a transcript or of a nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of any the claims from 1 to 3 in a sample, the method comprising:
  - (a) providing a nucleic acids-containing sample;

- (b) contacting said sample with a nucleic acid of any of the claims 11 to 15; and
- (c) determining the hybridization of said nucleic acid with a nucleic acid into the sample.
- 37. Use of the primer sequences containing any of the sequences SEQ ID NO: 41 -78 for determining the presence or the amount of a transcript or of a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide of any the claims from 1 to 4 in a sample by Polymerase Chain Reaction.

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38. A kit for measuring the activity and/or the presence of the polypeptides of any of the claims from 1 to 3 in a sample comprising one or more of the following reagents: a polypeptide of any of the claims from 1 to 5 or claim 9, a ligand of any of the claims from 6 to 8, a peptide mimetic of claim 10, a nucleic acid of any of the claims from 11 to 15, a cell of claim 17 or 18, a compound of any of the claims from 21 to 23, or a primer sequences containing any of the sequences SEQ ID NO: 41-78.

#### **ABSTRACT**

The present invention discloses novel open reading frames (ORFs) in human genome encoding for ORFs characterized for polypeptides having at least one activity of human Interferon gamma, and reagents related thereto including variants and fragments of said polypeptides, as well as the encoding nucleic acids and the ligands directed against them. The invention provides methods for identifying and making these molecules, for preparing pharmaceutical compositions containing them, and for using them in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases.

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IFNFH01	1	AAC	ATG	ACC	TCA	CCA	AAT	AAA	CTA	AAT	AAG	30 ·
pIFNFH01	1		Met	Thr	Ser	Phe	Asn	Lys	Leu	Asn	Lys	9
								_				
IFNFH01	31	-									GAA	60
pIFNFH01	10	Leu	Pro	Gly	Thr	Asn	Pro	Gly	Glu	Thr	Glu	19
IFNFH01	61		TGT									90 .
pifnfh01.	20	<u>Ile</u>	<u>Cys</u>	Asp	<u>Leu</u>	Leu	Asp	Arg	Glu	Phe	Lys	29
T-77-10-1	91	200										100
IFNFH01			GCT									120.
pIFNFH01	30	TTE	Ala	<u>var</u>	<u>ьеи</u>	Arg	гла	ьеи	тув	rÃs	Tyr	39
IFNFH01	121	CAA	GAT	СДТ	ACA	GAG	AAG	AAC	ጥጥር	ACA	አ ጥጥ	150
pIFNFH01	40			_	_						Ile	49
Parmenor	10	<u> </u>	<u></u>	1.0.5		<u> </u>		230	1116		110	32
IFNFH01	151	CTA	TCA	GAT	AAA	TTT	AAC	AAA	GAG	ATT	GAA	180
pIFNFH01	50	Leu	Ser	Asp	Lys	Phe	Asn	Lys	Glu	Ile	Glu	59
IFNFH01	181	ATA	TTA	AAA	AAT	AA T	CAA	GCA	GAA	ATT	CTG	210
pIFNFH01	60	<u>Ile</u>	Leu	Lys	Asn	Asn	Gln	<u>Ala</u>	Glu	Ile	Leu	69
		_										
IFNFH01			CTG									240
pIFNFH01	70	Glu	<u>Leu</u>	гля	Asn	Leu	Thr	Gly	Ile	Leu	Lys	79 <sup>.</sup>
IFNFH01	241	አ አ'ጠ	CTC	CCA	ccc	mem	mmm	70 70 70	700	707	ATT	270
pIFNFH01			Val									89
PILMEHOI	00	ASII	val	110	Gry	- ·	FILE	ASII	Ser	ALG	TTE	09
IFNFH01	271	GAT	GGA	GCA	AAA	GGA	AGA	АТТ	AGT	AAG	CCT	30.0
pIFNFH01	90		Gly									99
-		•	-		•	•						
IFNFH01	301	GAA	GAC	AGG	TTA	TTT	GAA	AAT	ACA	CAG	AGG	330
pIFNFH01	100	Glu	Asp	Arg	Leu	Phe	Glu	Asn	Thr	Gln	Arg	109
		•										
IFNFH01	331		CAA									360
pIFNFH01	110	Arg	Gln	Lys	Lys	Arg	Asn	Lys	Lys	Lys	stop	118

								_				
IFNFH03	1	AAC	ATG	ACA	TCA	CCA	AAT	GAG	TTA .	AAT (	GAG	30
pIFNFH03	1		<u>Met</u>	Thr	Ser	<u>Pro</u>	<u>Asn</u>	Glu	Leu	Asn	GIU	9
IFNFH03	31	GCA	GCA	GGA	ACT	ACT	CCC	AAA	GAA	ACA (	GAG	.60
pIFNFH03	10	Ala .	Ala	Gly	Thr	Thr	Pro	Lys	Glu	<u>Thr</u>	GIU	.19
IFNFH03	61	ATA	TGT	GAC	ATT	TCA	GAC	AGA	GAA	TTC :	AAA	90
pIFNFH03	20-	· <u>Ile</u>	Суз	<u>qeA</u>	Ile	Ser	Asp.	Arg	<u>Glu</u>	Phe	Lys	29
IFNFH03	91									GAA .		120
pIFNFH03	30	<u>Ile</u>	Ala	Leu	Leu	<u>Lys</u>	Lys	<u>Leu</u>	<u>Lys</u>	<u>Glu</u>	<u>Ile</u>	39
IFNFH03	121	CAA	GAT	AAT	ACG	GAG	AAG	GAA	CTC	AGA	ATT	150
pIFNFH03	40	Gln	<u>Asp</u>	<u>Asn</u>	Thr	Glu	<u>Lys</u>	Glu	Leu	Arg	11e	49
IFNFH03	151	CTA	TCA	GAT	AAA	TTT	AAC	AAG	GAG	ATT	GAA	180
pIFNFH03	50	Leu	<u>Ser</u>	Asp	Lys	Phe	Asn	Lys	Glu	<u>Ile</u>	GIU	59
IFNFH03	181									ATT		210
pIFNFH03	60	Met	Ile	Lys	Lys	Asn	Gln	Ala	GIU	Ile	Leu	69
IFNFH03	211	GAG	CTA	AAA	AAT	GCA	GGT	GGC	ATA	TTG	AAA	240
pIFNFH03	70	<u>Glu</u>	<u>Leu</u>	Lys	Asn	Ala	GLY	GIY	TTE	<u>Leu</u>	гАз	79
IFNFH03	241	ATG	CAT	CAG	AGT	TGG	CTG	GGC	ATG	GTG	GCT	270 89
pIFNFH03	80	Met	His	Gln	Ser	Trp	Leu	стй	Met	Val	ALA	89
IFNFH03		CAC	GCC	TGT	AAT	CCC	AGT	ACT	TTG	GGA	AGC	300
pIFNFH03	90	His	Ala	Cys	Asn	Pro	Ser	Thr	Leu	Gly	ser	99
IFNFH03	301	CGA	GGT	GGG	TGG	ATC	ACG	AGT	TCA	GGA	GTT	330 109
pIFNFH03	100	Arg	Gly	Gly	Trp	ITE	Thr	ser	ser	Gly	val	,109
IFNFH03	331	CAA	GAC	CAG	CCT	GGC	CAA	GGC	AGT	GAA	ACC	360 119
pIFNFH03	110	Gln	Asp	Gln	Pro	GLY	GIn	СТА	ser	Glu	THE	119
IFNFH03	361	TCA	TCT	CTA	CTA	AAA	ATA	CAA	AAA	TTA	GCT	390 129
pIFNFH03	120	Ser	Ser	Leu	Leu		Ile	GIN_	гуз	Leu	ALG	149
IFNFH03	391	GGG	TGC	AGT	GGC	AGG	CAC	CTG	TAA			414 136
pIFNFH03	130	Gly	Cys	Ser	Gly	Arg	His	ьeu	STO	Þ		.130

IFNFH04 1		AAT GAA CTA AAT AAG	30	
pIFNFH04 1	Met Thr Ser Pro	Asn Glu Leu Asn Lys	9 ·	. •
IFNFH04 31		CCT GGA GAA ACA GAG	60	
pIFNFH04 10	Ala Pro Gly Thr Asn	Pro Gly Glu Thr Glu	19	er e
IFNFH04 61		GAC AGA GAA TTC AAA	90	
pIFNFH04 20	Met Tyr Asp Leu Ser	Asp Arg. Glu Phe Lys	29	
IFNFH04 91	ACA GCT ATT TTG AGG	AAA CTC AAA GAA ATT	120	
pIFNFH04 30	Thr Ala Ile <u>Leu</u> Arg	Lys Leu Lys Glu Ile	∙39	
IFNFH04 121		AAG GAA TTC AGA ATT	150 ·	
pIFNFH04 40	Gln Asp Asn Thr Lys	Lys Glu Phe Arg Ile	49	· · · · · · ·
IFNFH04 151		AAC AAA CAG ATC GAA	180	*
pIFNFH04 50	Leu Ser Asp Lys Phe	Asn Lys Gln Ile Glu	59	
IFNFH04 181	ATA ATT AAA AAG AAT	CAA GCA GAA ATT CTA	210	
pIFNFH04 60	Ile Ile Lys Lys Asn	Gln Ala Glu Ile Leu	69	•
IFNFH04 211	GAG CTG AAA AAT GTA	ATT GAT ATA CTA AAG	240	•
pIFNFH04 70	Glu Leu Lys Asn Val	. Ile Asp Ile <u>Leu</u> Lys	79	•
TFNFH04 241	AAT GCA TCA GTC TCT	TGA	258	
pIFNFH04 80	Asn Ala Ser Val Ser		84	••

IFNFH08 PIFNFH08	1 1	AAC ATG ACC TCA CCA AAT GAA CTT AGT AAG 30  Met Thr Ser Pro Asn Glu Leu Ser Lys 9
IFNFH08 pIFNFH08	31 10	GCA CCA GGG ACC AAT CAG GGA GAA ACA GAG 60 Ala Pro Gly Thr Asn Gln Gly Glu Thr Glu 19
IFNFH08 pIFNFH08	61 20	ATA TAT GAC CTT TCA GAC ACA GAA TTC AAA 90  Ile Tyr Asp Leu Ser Asp Thr Glu Phe Lys. 29
IFNFH08 pIFNFH08	91 30	ATA GCT GTT TTG AGA AAC TCA AAG AAG AAA 120 <u>Ile</u> Ala <u>Val</u> <u>Leu</u> Arg <u>Asn</u> Ser Lys Lys 39
IFNFH08 pIFNFH08	121 40	CTC AAA GAA ATT CAG GAT AAC ACA GAG AAG 150 Leu Lys Glu Ile Gln Asp Asn Thr Glu Lys 49
IFNFH08 pIFNFH08	151 50	GAA TTC AGA ATT CTA TCA GAT AAA TTT AAC 180 Glu Phe Arg Ile Leu Ser Asp Lys Phe Asn 59
IFNFH08 PIFNFH08	181 60	AAA GAG ATT GAA ATA ATT AAA AAG AAT CAA 210 Lys Glu Ile Glu Ile Ile Lys Lys Asn Gln 69
IFNFH08 pIFNFH08	211 70	GCA GAA ATT CTA GAG TTG AAA AAT GCA ATT 240 Ala Glu Ile Leu Glu Leu Lys Asn Ala Ile 79
IFNFH08 pIFNFH08	241 80	GAC ATG CTG AAT AAT GCA TCA GAT TAT CTT 270 Asp Met Leu Asn Asn Ala Ser Asp Tyr Leu 89
IFNFH08 pIFNFH08	271 90	CAT AGT AGA ATT AAT CGG AAT TAG 294 His Ser Arg Ile Asn Arg Asn stop 96

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IFNFH10	1	AAC	ATG					GAG				⊭30 .∙ 9
pIFNFH10	1									Asn		. 9
IFNFH10	31										GAG	. 60
pIFNFH10	10	Val	Pro	Met	Thr	Asn	Pro	Gly	Glu	Thr	GLu	± <b>19</b>
IFNFH10	61		TGT									90
pIFNFH10	20	<u>Ile</u>	Cys	<u>Asp</u>	<u>Leu</u>	Ser	Asp	Gln.	Lys	Leu	<u>Lys</u> .	29 تــــــ
IFNFH10	91		GCT									120
pIFNFH10	30	<u>Ile</u>	Ala	<u>Val</u>	Met	Arg	Lys	Leu	Lys	<u>Glu</u>	<u>Ile</u>	: 39
IFNFH10	121		GAT									150
pIFNFH10	40	Gln	<u>Asp</u>	<u>Asn</u>	Thr	<u>Glu</u>	<u>Lys</u>	Glu	Phe	ГÄЗ	<u>Ile</u>	. 49
IFNFH10	151		TCA									180
pIFNFH10	50	Leu	Ser	Arg	Lys	Phe	Asn	Lys	Lys	Ile	Gly	59
IFNFH10	181	TTA	ATT	GAA	AAT	AAT	CAA	GCA	GAA	ATT	TTG	210
pIFNFH10	60	Leu	<u>Ile</u>	Glu	Asn	Asn	Gln	Ala	Glu	Ile	Leu	69
IFNFH10	211		CTG									240
pIFNFH10	70	Glu	Leu	ГЛЗ	Asn	Ala	Ile	Gly	Ile	Leu	Lys	∶79
IFNFH10			GCA									270
pIFNFH10	80	Asn	Ala	Ser	Glu	Ser	Phe	Asn	Ser	Asn	Met	89
IFNFH10	271		CAA									300
pIFNFH10	90	Tyr	Gln	Ala	Glu	Asp	Arg	Ile	Ser	Gl u	Leu	. 99
IFNFH10	301		TAC									330
pIFNFH10	100	Lys	Tyr	Arg	Leu	Phe	Glu	Asn	Thr	Gln	Ser	109
IFNFH10	331	GAG	GAG	ACC	AAA	AAC	AAC	AAA	AAA	CAA	TGA	360
pIFNFH10	110	Glu	Glu	Thr	Lys	Asn	Asn	Lys	Lys	Gln	stop	118

								<b>-</b>			
IFNFH11	1	CAC ATG	ACC	TCA	GGA	AAT	GAA	GTA	AAT	AAG	30
pIFNFH11	1	Met	Thr	Ser	СТĀ	Asn	GIU	var	Asn	тұѕ	9
IFNFH11	31	GCA CCA									60
pIFNFH11	10	Ala Pro	Gly	Thr	Asn	Leu	GLY	GIU	Thr	GIU	19
IFNFH11	61	ATA TGI									90
pIFNFH11	.20	Ile Cys	Asp	Leu	<u>Ser</u> .	Asp	<u>Tnr</u>	GIU	Leu.	.Arg	29-
IFNFH11	91	ATA ACT									120
pIFNFH11	30	Ile Thr	<u>Val</u>	Leu	Arg	Lys	Leu	Asn	GLu	TIE	39
IFNFH11	121	AAA GAT	AAC	ACA	GAG	ATG	GAA	TTC	AGA	ATT	150
pIFNFH11	40	Lys Asp	<u>Asn</u>	Thr	Glu	Met	Glu	Phe	Arg	Ile	49
IFNFH11	151	TTG TCA									180
pIFNFH11	50	Leu Ser	Asp	Lys	Phe	Lys	Lys	Glu	Ile	Glu	59
IFNFH11	181	ATA ATI									210
pIFNFH11	60	Ile Ile	Lys	Arg	Asn	Gln	Ala	Glu	Ile	Leu	69
IFNFH11	211	GAG CTC									240
pIFNFH11	70	Glu Let	<u>.</u> Lys	Asn	Ala	Ile	GLY	ITe	Leu	гÃа	79
IFNFH11	241	AAT GC									270
pIFNFH11	80	Asn Ala									89
IFNFH11	271	GAT CA									300
pIFNFH11	90	Asp Glr									99
IFNFH11	301	GAA GA									330
pIFNFH11	100	Glu Ası									109
IFNFH11	331	TCT CA	A AAG	. AAA	AAG	AAT	AAA	AAA	CAA	TAA	360
pIFNFH11	110	Ser Gl	l Lys	Lys	Lys	Asn	Lys	ГĀЗ	Gln	stop	118

									_			
IFNFH12	1	AAC	ATG	ACC	TCA	CCA	AAT	GAA	CTG	AAT	AAG	30
pIFNFH12	1		<u>Met</u>	Thr	Ser	Pro	<u>Asn</u>	<u>Glu</u>	<u>Leu</u>	Asn	<u>Lys</u>	9 .
IFNFH12	31	CCA	CCA	GGG	ACC	AAT	CCT	GGA	GAA	ACA	GAA ·	60
pIFNFH12	10	Pro	Pro	Gly	Thr	Asn	Pro	Gly	<u>Glu</u>	Thr	<u>Glu</u>	19
IFNFH12	61	ATA	TGT	GAC	CTT	TCA	GAC	AAA	GAA	TTC	AAA	. 90
pIFNFH12	20	Ile	Суз	Asp	. <u>Leu</u>	Ser	<u>Asp</u>	Lys	. <u>Glu</u>	Phe	Lys	. 29.
IFNFH12	91	ATA	GCT	GTG	TTG	AAG	AAA	CTC	AAC	GAA	GCT	120
pIFNFH12	30	Ile	Ala	<u>Val</u>	Leu	Lys	Lys	Leu	Asn	Glu	Ala	39
IFNFH12	121	CAA	GAT	AGC	ACA	GAG	AAG	GAA	TTC	AGA	ATT	150
pIFNFH12	40	<u>Gln</u>	Asp	Ser	Thr	Glu	<u>Lys</u>	<u>Glu</u>	Phe	Arg	<u>Ile</u>	49.
IFNFH12	151	CTA	TCA	GAT	AAA	TGT	AAC	AAA	GAC	ATT	AAA	180
pIFNFH12	50	Leu	Ser	Asp	Lys	Cys	Asn	Lys	Asp	<u>Ile</u>	Lys	. 59 .
IFNFH12	181	ATA	ATT	AAA	AAG	AAT	CAA	GCA	GAA	TTT	CTG	210
pIFNFH12	60	<u>Ile</u>	<u>Ile</u>	Lys	ГÀЗ	Asn	Gln	<u>Ala</u>	<u>Glu</u>	Phe	<u>Leu</u>	69
IFNFH12	211	AAG	CTG	AAA	GAT	GCA	ATT	GGA	ATA	CTG	AAG	240
pIFNFH12	70	Lys	<u>Leu</u>	Lys	Asp ◀	Ala	Ile	Gly	Ile	Leu	Lys	79
IFNFH12	241								AGC			270
pIFNFH12	80	Asp <b>←</b>	Ala	Ser	Glu	Phe	Phe	Asn	Ser	Arg	Thr	89
IFNFH12	271	GAT	TGA									276
pIFNFH12	90	Asp	stor	)								90

IFNFH13	1	AAC	ATG	ACC	TCA	CCA	AAT	GAA	CTA	AAT	AAG	30
pIFNFH13	1		Met	Thr	Ser	<u>Pro</u>	<u>Asn</u>	<u>Glu</u>	<u>Leu</u>	<u>Asn</u>	<u>Lys</u>	9
<b>.</b>												
IFNFH13	31	GCA	CCA	GGG	ACC	TAA	CCT	GGA	GAA	ACT	GAG	60 19
pIFNFH13	10	Ala	<u>Pro</u>	Gly	Thr	<u>Asn</u>	Pro	<u>Gly</u>	Glu	<u>Thr</u>	GIU	. тэ
						<b></b>	<b>63.6</b>	7.07	***	mmC	7 7 Z	90
IFNFH13	61	ATA	TGT	GAC	CTT	TCA	JACO	AGA	AAA Lug	TTC	T.vs	29.
pIFNFH13	20	TTE	Сув	Asp	<u>reu</u>	Ser	Hap	ALG	пуо	<u>Phe</u>	<u> </u>	
IFNFH13	91	ACA.	CCT	CTC	ጥጥር	AAG	AAA	CTC	AAA	GAA	ATT	120
pIFNFH13	30									Glu		39
DIENEUIS	30	mg	,,,,,			=4=						
TFNFH13	121	CAA	AAT	GTC	TCA	AAG	AAG	GAA	TTC	AGA	ATT	150
pIFNFH13	40	Gln	Asn	Val	Ser	Lys	Lys	Glu	Phe	Arg	<u>Ile</u>	. 49
*												100
IFNFH13	151	CTA	TTA	GAT	AAA	TTT	AAC	AGA	CAG	ATT	GAA	180 59
pIFNFH13	50	<u>Leu</u>	Leu	Asp	Lys	Phe	Asn	Arg	GIN	Ile	GIU	39
	- 0-		3. mm	71 71 T	አአጥ	አአጥ	CNN	aca	CAA	ATT	ATG	210
IFNFH13	181	GTA	ATT	AAA	AAT	Van	Gln	Thr	Gli	Ile	Met	69
pIFNFH13	60	var	TTG	пÃЭ	Maii	7.511	0111		<u> </u>			
IFNFH13	211	GAG	СТТ	AAA	AAC	GCA	ATT	GGC	ATA	CTG	AAA	240
pIFNFH13		Glu	Leu	Lys	Asn	Ala	lle	Gly	Ile	Leu	Lys	79
PILMIMI												
IFNFH13	241	ATG	CAT	CAG	AGT	TCT	TTA	ATA	GCA	GCA	TTG	270
pIFNFH13	80	Met	His	Gln	Ser	Ser	Leu	Ile	Ala	Ala	Leu	89
_									cm.c		C/II/C	30.0
IFNFH13	271	ATC	AAA	CAG	AAG	AAA	GAA	TO	GTU	AAC	Lau	99
pIFNFH13	90	Ile	Lys	GIN	гла	гда	GIU	ьец	val	Asn	пеа	,
	201	770	707	ccc	ሞልጥ	ப்பி	מממ:	מיד ב	CAC	AGA	GGA	330
IFNFH13 pIFNFH13	301 100	Tare	Thr	Δla	Tur	Leu	Lvs	Ile	His	Arg	Gly	109
DIENEUIS	100	цуз	****		- <u>-</u> _							
IFNFH13	331	GAC	AAA	AGA	AAA	AAA	TAT	AAA	AGA	ATG	AA G	-360
pIFNFH13		Asp	Lys	Arg	Lys	Lys	. Tyr	: Lys	Arg	Met	Lys	119
<u></u>		4-										
	361		: ACC									369
pIFNFH13	120	His	Thr	sto	P							121

									<b>•</b>			
IFNFH14	1	AAC	ATG	ACA	TCA	ACA	AAG	GAA	CT A	AAT	AAG	30
pIFNFH14	1		<u>Met</u>	Thr	Ser	Thr	ГÄЗ	GIU.	Leu	Asn	тля	9
IFNFH14	31		CCA									-60
pIFNFH14	10	Ala	<u>Pro</u>	Val	Asn	<u>Asn</u>	Pro	Gly	Glu	Thr	GLu	. 19
IFNFH14	61	CTA	TGT	GAC	CTT	TTA	GAC	AAA	AAA	TTC	AAA	90
pIFNFH14	20	Leu	Cys	<u>Asp</u>	<u>Leu</u>	Leu	Asp	Lys	Lys	Phe	<u>ъуз</u>	29
IFNFH14	91		GCA									120
pIFNFH14	30	<u>Ile</u>	Ala	<u>Val</u>	<u>Leu</u>	Arg	Lys	Leu	<u>Lys</u>	GIY	IIe	39
IFNFH14	121		AAT									150
pIFNFH14	40	Gln	Asn	<u>Asn</u>	Thr	Glu	Lys	Glu	Phe	Arg	TTE	49
IFNFH14		CTA	TCA	GAT	AAA	TTT	AAC	AAA	GAG	ATT	GAA	180
PIFNFH14	50	Leu	Ser	Asp	Lys	Phe	Asn	Lys	Glu	TTE	GIU	• 59
IFNFH14	181		ATT									210
pIFNFH14	60	<u>Ile</u>	<u>Ile</u>	Lys	Lys	Asn	Gln	Ala	Glu	Inr	Leu	69
IFNFH14	211	GAG	CTA	AAA	AAT	GCA	GTT	GGC	ACA	CTA	ACA	240
pIFNFH14	70	Glu	Leu	Lys	Asn	Ala	Val	GIY	Thr	Leu	Inr	79
IFNFH14		AAA	GCA	TCA	CAG	TCC	TTT	AAA	AGC	AGA	ATG	270
pIFNFH14	80	Lys	Ala	Ser	Gln	Ser	Phe	Lys	Ser	Arg	Met	89
IFNFH14		GAT	ATA	GCA	GAA	AGA	AGA	ATT	AGT	GAA	CTT	300
pIFNFH14	90	Asp	Ile	Ala	Glu	Arg	Arg	Ile	Ser	GIU	⊥eu 4——	. 99
IFNFH14		AAA	GAC	AGG	CTA	TTT	GAA	AAT	ACA	GTC	AGA	330
pIFNFH14	100	Lys	Asp	Arg	Leu	Phe	Glu	Asn	Thr	Val	Arg	109
IFNFH14	331		GAA									348
pIFNFH14	110	Arg	Glu	Lys	Arg	Ile	sto	p				114

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IFNFH15	1	AAT										30
pIFNFH15	1		<u>Met</u>	Thr	Ser	Pro	Asn	Glu	Leu	Asn	Lys	9
IFNFH15	31	GCA	CCA	GGG	ATC	AAT	CCT	GGG	GAA	ACA	GAA	60
pIFNFH15	10	Ala										19
IFNFH15	61	ATA	TGT	GAC	CTT	TCA	GAC	AGA	GAA	TTC	ACA	90
pIFNFH15	20	<u>Ile</u>										٠ 29
IFNFH15	91	ATA	GCT	GTT	TCG	AGG	AAG	CTA	AAC	AAA	ATC	120
pIFNFH15	30	<u>Ile</u>	Ala	<u>Val</u>	Ser	Arg	Lys	Leu	Asn	Lys	<u>Ile</u>	39
IFNFH15	121	CAA	GAT	AAC	ATG	GAG	AAG	GAA	TTC	AGA	ATC	150
pifnfh15	40	Gln	<u>Asp</u>	Asn	Met	Glu	<u>Lys</u>	Glu	Phe	Arg	<u>Ile</u>	49
IFNFH15	151	CTA	TCA	GAT	AAA	TTT	AAT	GAA	GAG	ATT	GAA	180
pIFNFH15	50	Leu	Ser	Asp	<u>Lys</u>	Phe	Asn	Glu	Glu	Ile	Glu	59
IFNFH15	181	ATA	ATT	AAA	AAG	AAT	CAA	GCA	GAA	ATT	CTG	210
pIFNFH15	60	Ile	<u>Ile</u>	Lys	Lys	Asn	Gln	Ala	Glu	Ile	Leu	69
IFNFH15	211	GAG	CTG	AAA	AAC	GCA	ATT	GAC	ATG	TTG	AAG	2 40
pIFNFH15	70	<u>Glu</u>	<u>Leu</u>	Lys	<u>Asn</u>	<u>Ala</u>	Ile	Asp	Met	Leu	Lys	79
IFNFH15	241	AAT	GCA	TCA	GAG	AAT	CTC	ACC	AGC	AGA	ACT	270
pIFNFH15	80	Asn	Ala	Ser	Glu	Asn	Leu	Thr	Ser	Arg	Thr	89
IFNFH15	271	GAT	CAA	GCA	AGA	GAA	ATA	ATT	AGT	AAG	CTT	300
pIFNFH15	90	Asp	Gln	Ala	Arg	Glu	Ile	Ile	Ser	Lys	Leu	99
IFNFH15	301									AAG		330
pIFNFH15	100	Glu	Asp	Arg	Leu	Phe	Glu	Asn	Thr	Lys	Ser	109
IFNFH15	331	GAG	GAG	ACA	AAT	GGA	AAA	AGA	ATA	AAA	TGC	360
pIFNFH15	110	Glu	Glu	Thr	Asn	Gly	Lys	Arg	Ile	Lys	Суз	119
IFNFH15	361	AAT										390
pIFNFH15	120	Asn	Glu	Ala	His	Leu	Gln	Glu	Leu	Glu	Asn	129
IFNFH15	391	AGC	TTC	AAA	ATG	GGA	AAT	CTA	AAA	GTT	ATT	420
pIFNFH15	130	Ser	Phe	Lys	Met	Gly	Asn	Leu	Lys	Val	Ile	139
IFNFH15	421	GGC	CTT	AAA	TAG							432
pIFNFH15	140	Gly	Leu	ГЛЗ	stor	>						142

IFNFH20	1	AAC ATG	CCC TTA	CCA AAT	GAG CTA	AAT AAG	30			
pIFNFH20	1	Met	Pro Leu	Pro Asn	Glu Leu	Asn Lys	. 9			
IFNFH20	31	GCG CCA	GGG ACC	AAT CCT	GGA GAA	ACA GAG	60			
pIFNFH20	10	Ala Pro	Gly Thi	Asn Pro	Gly Glu	Thr Glu	; <b>19</b>	•		
IFNFH20	61			TCA GAC			90	• .		٠
pIFNFH20	20	Thr Cys	Asp Let	1 Ser Asp	Arg Glu	Phe Lys	29			•
IFNFH20	91	ATA GCT	GTG TTC	AGA AAA	CTC AAA	GAA ATT	120			
pIFNFH20	30	<u>Ile</u> Ala	Val Let	ı Arg Lys	<u>Leu</u> Lys	Glu Ile	39			•
IFNFH20	121	J		A GAC AAG			150			
pIFNFH20	40	Gln Glu	Asn Thi	r Asp Lys	<u>Glu</u> Leu	Arg Ile	. 49	,,		
IFNFH20	151			A TTT AAC			180			
pIFNFH20	50	Leu Ser	Asp Lys	B Phe Asn	<u>Lys</u> Glu	<u>Ile</u> Lys	59			•
IFNFH20	181			AAT CAA			210			•
pIFNFH20	60	<u>Ile</u> Met	Lys Lys	Asn Gln	Ala Glu	Ile Leu	، 69		•	•
IFNFH20	211			TCA ATI			240		•	
pIFNFH20	70	Lys <u>Leu</u>	Lys Ası	n Ser Ile	Ser Ile	Met Lys	. 79	•	•	
IFNFH20	241	AAT GCA	TCA TAC	3			252			
pIFNFH20	80	Asn Ala	Ser sto	p			82	•		

IFNFH23	1	AAC	ATG									30
pIFNFH23	1		<u>Met</u>	<u>Thr</u>	Ser	Pro	<u>Asn</u>	Glu	Leu	Asn	<u>Lys</u>	9
IFNFH23	31		CCA									60
pIFNFH23	10	Ala	<u>Pro</u>	Gly	<u>Thr</u>	Asn	Leu	Gly	<u>Glu</u>	Thr	Glu	19
IFNFH23	61		TGT									90
pIFNFH23	20.	Ile	Cys	<u>Asp</u>	<u>Leu</u>	Ser	Asp	. Arg	<u>Glu</u>	<u>Phe</u>	<u>Lys</u>	29 .
IFNFH23	· 91		GCT									120
PIFNFH23	30	Lys	Ala	<u>Val</u>	Leu	Gln	Lys	<u>Leu</u>	<u>Lys</u>	Glu	Ile	39
IFNFH23	121		GAT									150
pIFNFH23	40	Gln	<u>Asp</u>	<u>Asn</u>	Thr	Glu	Lys	<u>Glu</u>	Phe	Arg	<u>Ile</u>	49
IFNFH23	151		TTA									180
pIFNFH23	50	Leu	Leu	His	Lys	Phe	Asn	Lys	Glu	Ile	Lys	59
IFNFH23	181		ATT									210
pIFNFH23	60	<u>Ile</u>	Ile	Lys	Lys	Asn	Gln	Ala	Glu	Ile	Leu	69
IFNFH23	211		GCA									240
pIFNFH23	70	Glu	Ala	Lys	Asn	Ala	Thr	Asp	Ile	Leu	Met	79
IFNFH23	241		GCA									270
pIFNFH	80	Asn	Ala	Ser	Asp	Pro	Ile	A sn	Ser	Thr	Ile	89
IFNFH23	271		GAA									300
pifnfh	90	Asp	Glu	Ala	Glu	Glu	Arg	Ile	Ser	Glu ——	Leu	99
IFNFH23	301		GAC									327
pIFNFH23	100	Glu	Asp	Arg	Leu	Phe	Glu	Ser	Ile	sto	Þ	107

IFNFH25	1	AAC										.30 .9
pIFNFH25	1		Met	Ala	Ser	PLO	<u>MSII</u>	пуз	<u>neu</u>	ASII	<u>Lys</u>	
IFNFH25	31	GCA	CCA	GAA	ACC	AAT	CCC	AAA	GAG	ACA	GAG	: .60
pIFNFH25	10	Ala	Pro	Glu	Thr	Asn	<u>Pro</u>	Lys	<u>Glu</u>	Thr	Glu	<b>、19</b>
										ama		: .90
IFNFH25	61										AAA	
pIFNFH25	20	Val	Суз	<u>Asp</u>	<u>Leu</u>	Ser	<u>Asp</u>	Arg	Glu	Leu	Lys	29
IFNFH25	91	АТА	ССТ	GTT	TTG	AGG	AAG	TTC	AAT	GAA	ATT	120
pIFNFH25	30										Ile	. 39
PIENERZS	50	446	110			5						
IFNFH25	121	CAA	GAT	AAC	ACA	GAG	AAG	GAA	TTC	AGA	ATT	150
pIFNFH25	40	Gln	<u>Asp</u>	Asn	Thr	<u>Glu</u>	Lys	Glu	Phe	Arg	<u>Ile</u>	49
									~~~	3 mm	<i>a</i> , ,	180
IFNFH25	151				AAA.							
pIFNFH25	50	<u>Leu</u>	Ser	<u>Asp</u>	<u>Lys</u>	Phe	Asn	Lys	GLu	Ile	Glu	. 59
TFNFH25	181	አ ፕ	Δυπ	ΔΔΔ	AAG	ААТ	CAA	GCG	GAA	ATT	CCG	210
pIFNFH25	60										Pro	. 69
PIENERZS	00	116	<u> </u>	пуз	шуо	22022	<u> </u>					
IFNFH25	211	GAA	GTG	AAA	AAT	GCA	ATT	AAT	ACA	CTG	AAG	240
pIFNFH25	70	Glu	Val	Lys	Asn	Ala	Ile	Asn	Thr	Leu	Lys	, 79
_												
IFNFH25	241										ATT	270
pIFNFH25	80	Asn	Ser	Ser	Glu	Ser	Leu	Asn	Ser	Arg	Ile	^89
						ma =						285
IFNFH25	271				GAA			•				
pIFNFH25	90	Asp	Gln	Ala	Glu	stor	•					93

IFNFH27	1	AAC						GAA				30
pIFNFH27	1		Met	Thr	Ser	Pro	Asn	<u>Glu</u>	Leu	Asn	GLu	9
IFNFH27	31							GCA				60
pIFNFH27	10	Ala	Pro	Gly	Thr	Asn	Pro	Ala	Glu	Thr	Glu	19
IFNFH27	61	ATA	TGT	AAC	ATT	TTA	GAC	AGA	GAA	TTC	AAA	90
pIFNFH27	20 -	<u>Ile</u>	Cys	Asn	Ile	Leu	Asp	Arg	<u>Glu</u>	<u>Phe</u>	Lys	· 29·
IFNFH27								CTC				120
pIFNFH27	30	<u>Ile</u>	Ala	<u>Val</u>	Leu	Arg	Lys	Leu	Asn	<u>Glu</u>	<u>Ile</u>	39
IFNFH27								GAA				150
pIFNFH27	40	<u>Gln</u>	Asp	<u>Asn</u>	Thr	<u>Glu</u>	Lys	Glu	Leu	Lys	Val	49
IFNFH27								AAA				180
pIFNFH27	50	Leu	Ser	<u>Asp</u>	Lys	Ile	Ile	Lys	Glu	Ile	<u>Glu</u>	59
IFNFH27	181							GCA				210
pIFNFH27	60	<u>Ile</u>	<u>Ile</u>	Lys	Met	<u>Asn</u>	<u>Gln</u>	<u>Ala</u>	Glu	Ile	<u>Leu</u>	69
IFNFH27	211							GAC				240
pIFNFH27	70	Glu	<u>Leu</u>	Lys	Asn	Ala	Thr	Asp	Ile	Arg	Lys	79
IFNFH27												270
pIFNFH27	80				_			Asn	_	_		89
IFNFH27	271		_	_				ATT				300
pIFNFH27	90						_	Ile		•		99
IFNFH27								AAT				330
pIFNFH27	100	Gly ◀	Asp	Ser	Leu	Phe	Asp	Asn	Ile	Gln	Ser	109
IFNFH27	331		GAA		_							345
pIFNFH27	110	Glu	Glu	Ala	Asn	sto	<u> </u>					113

Figure 1	5
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IFNFH31	1	AAT ATG ACC TCA CCA AAT GAA CTA AAT AAG : 30	
pIFNFH31	1	Met Thr Ser Pro Asn Glu Leu Asn Lys 9	
	31	GTA CCA GGG GCC AAT CCT GGA GAA ACA GAG : 60	
IFNFH31	10		
pIFNFH31	10	Val Pro Gly Ala Asn Pro Gly Glu Thr Glu 19	
IFNFH31	61	ATT TGT GAT CAT TCA GAA AGA GAA TTC AAA · 90	
pIFNFH31	20	Ile Cys Asp His Ser Glu Arg Glu Phe-Lys . 29	
IFNFH31	91	ATA ACT GTC TTG AGG AAA CTC AAA GAC ATT '120	
pIFNFH31	30	Ile Thr Val Leu Arg Lys Leu Lys Asp Ile 39	
PILITIOI		<u> </u>	
IFNFH31	121	CAT GAT AAC ACA GAG AAG ACA ATC AGA ATT 150	
pIFNFH31	40	His Asp Asn Thr Glu Lys Thr Ile Arg Ile . 49	
		CTA TCA GAT AAA TTT AAC AAA GAT ATT GAA 180	
IFNFH31	151	O111 1011 0111 1111 1110 1111 0111 1111 0111 1111	
pIFNFH31	50	<u>Leu Ser Asp Lys Phe Asn Lys Asp Ile Glu</u> 59	
IFNFH31	181	ATA ATT TTA AAA AAT CAA GAT GAT ATT CTG 210	
pIFNFH31	60	Ile Ile Leu Lys Asn Gln Asp Asp Ile Leu 69	
IFNFH31		GAG CTG GAA AAT GCA ATT GGT GTA CT G AAG 240 Glu Leu Glu Asn Ala Ile Gly Val Leu Lys 79	
pIFNFH31	70	Glu Leu Glu Asn Ala Ile Gly Val Leu Lys 79	
IFNFH31	241	AAT GAA TCA GGG TTC TTT AAT AGC AGG ATG :270	
pIFNFH31	80	Asn Glu Ser Gly Phe Phe Asn Ser Arg Met 89	
IFNFH31		GAT GAA GCA GAA GAA ATA ATT AGA AAG CTT .300	
pIFNFH31	90	Asp Glu Ala Glu Glu Ile Ile Arg Lys Leu 99	
IFNFH31	301	GAA GAC AGT TTA TTT GAA AAT ATA CAG TCA 330	
pIFNFH31		Glu Asp Ser Leu Phe Glu Asn Ile Gln Ser 109	
_		<u>+</u>	
IFNFH31	331	GAG AAG AAA GCG AAA AAA GTA AAA CAA ACA 360	
pIFNFH31	110	Glu Lys Lys Ala Lys Lys Val Lys Gln Thr 119	
IFNFH31	361	AAC AAA AAA AGA AGC ATG TAT TAG 384	
pIFNFH31		Asn Lys Lys Arg Ser Met Tyr stop 126	
F			

									_			
IFNFH32	· 1	AAC A							CTT Leu			30 9
pIFNFH32	_	=	100	<u> </u>	<u> </u>		-1011	2,0		-,, -	=1-	•
IFNFH32	31	GCA C										60
pIFNFH32	10	Ala I	Pro	Gly	Thr	<u>Asn</u>	Pro	GTA	<u>GIu</u>	Thr	GIU	19
IFNFH32	61	ACA 7										90
pIFNFH32	20	Thr 9	Cys .	Gly	<u>Leu</u>	- <u>Ser</u>	GIn	Arg	· Gru	Pne	<u>гла</u>	. 29.
IFNFH32 pIFNFH32	91 30	GTA (										120 39
IFNFH32 pIFNFH32	121 40	CAA (										150 49
IFNFH32 pIFNFH32	151 50	GTA '										180 59
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IFNFH36	241	AAT GCA TCA GGG TCT TTT AAT AGC AGA ATT	270
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IFNFH37	181									CTG		210
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IFNFH37	211									GCA		240
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IFNFH37	241									GGA		270
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IFNFH39	151	mmc	AGG	***	CTC	***	CAA	V dada	CAA	CAT	»cc	180
pIFNFH39	50		Arg									59
DIEMERS	30	шец	ALG	пуо	<u>neu</u>	11,3	<u>014</u>	116	<u> </u>	1100		
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pIFNFH39						_	_				Asp	69
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pIFNFH39	TTO	GIU	Glu	aco	٢							

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pIFNFH42	TTO	GIU	газ	гÃа	Asn	800	բ					113

#### Figure 21 MTSPNELNKLPWTNPGETEICDLSDTEFKISVLKN ----LKEI INSP037 MTSPNELNKAPGTNPGETEMYDLSDREFKTAILRK----LKEI pIFNFH04 MTSPNELSKAPGTNQGETEI YDLSDTEFKI AVLRNSKKKLKEI pIFNFH08 MTSPNKLKKAPGTNPGETETCGLSQREFKVAVLRK----LKEI pIFNFH32 MPLPNELNKAPGTNPGETETCDLSDREFKIAVLRK----LKEI pIFNFH20 MTSPNELNKPPGTNPGETEICDLSDKEFKIAVLKK----LNEA pIFNFH12 MASPNKLNKAPETNPKETEVCDLSDRELKIPVLRK----FNEI pIFNFH25 MTSPNKLNKAPRANSGETEIRKLSNTEIKIAVLRK----LKEI pIFNFH36 MTSLNELNKAPGANPGETEICDLSD REFKIAVLGKF--pIFNFH37 MARHLQTSTSIKTIQENR TSPSELNKAPGASLGETEICDLSNRELKIAVLRK----LKEI pIFNFH39 MPRHQRTPTRINTIQENT TSSNELNEAPGITPGETEICDLSD REFKVAVLRE---- LKEI pIFNFH42 MTSPNELNKAPGTNLGETEICDLSDREFKKAVLQK----LKEI pIFNFH23 MTSPNELNEAPGTNPAETEICNILDREFKIAVLRK----LNEI pIFNFH27 MTSTKELNKAPVNNPGETE LCDLLDKKFKIAVLRK----LKGI pIFNFH14 MTSPNKLNKLPGTNPGETEICDL LDREFKIAVLRK----LKKY pIFNFH01 MTSPNEVNKVPMTNPGETEICDLSD QKLKIAVMRK----LKEI pIFNFH10 MTSGNEVNKAPGTNLGETEICDLSDTE LRITVLRK----LNEI MTSPNELNKAPGTNPGETEICDLSDRKFKRAVLKK----LKEI pIFNFH11 pIFNFH13 MTSPNELNKVPGANPGETEICDHSEREFKITVLRK----LKDI pIFNFH31 MTSPNELNEAAGTTPKETEICDISDREFKIALLKK----LKEI pIFNFH03 MTSPNELNKAPGINPGETEICDLSDREFTIAVSRK----LNKI pIFNFH15 QDNTEKESRILSDKYKKQIEIIKGNQAEILELRNADGTL INSP037 <u>QDNTKKEFRILSDK</u>FN<u>KQIEIIKKNQAEILELKN</u>VIDI<u>I</u>KNASVS pIFNFH04 <u>QDNTEKE FRILSDK FNKETEIIKKNQAEILEL KNAIDMI</u>NNASDYLHSRINRN pIFNFH08 QDNREKEFRI VSDKFNKEIEIIKKNQAEILELKNQLAY pIFNFH32 QENTDKELRILSDK FNKEIKIMKKNQAEILKLKNSISIMKNAS pIFNFH20 <u>QDSTEKEFRILSDKCNKDIKIIKKNQAEFLKLKDAIGII</u>KDASEFFNSRTD pIFNFH12 QDNTEKE FRILSDK FNKEIEIIKKNQAEI PEVKNAINTUKNSSESLNSRIDQAE pIFNFH25 QDNTEKE FRILSDK FNKEIEITKKNQAEILELRNA IDIIKNASGSFNSRIEQAE pIFNFH36 K DNTEKE FRILSDK FNKEIEIIKKNQAEILELKNAIATUKNALEFFNSRIYGAEKKN pIFNFH37 QDSTEKE FRILSDK FNKQIEIIK NS QAEILEL KNA I DLUKNASES PNSRINQVEE pIFNFH39 QDNTEKKFRILPDKFIKEIEIIKKNQSEILELKNPTAV KNASESLNSRMDRVEKKN pIFNFH42 QDNTEKE FRILLHKFNKEIKIIKKNQAEILEAKNATDIIMNASDPINSTIDEAEERISEL QDNTEKELKVLSDKIIKEIEIIKMNQAEILELKNATDIRKNASGSLNKRLNLSEERISEL QNNTEKE FRILSDK FNKEIEIIKKNQAETLELKNAVGTITKASQSFKSRMDIAERRISEL pIFNFH23 pIFNFH27 pIFNFH14 QDDTEKKFRILSDK FNKEIEILKNNQAEILEL KNLTGILKNVPGSFNSRIDGAKGRISKP pIFNFH01 QDNTEKE FKILSRKFNKKIGLIENNQAEILELKNAIGIIKNASESFNSNMYQAEDRISEL K DNTEMEFRILSDK FKKEIEIIKRNQAEILELKNAIGIIKNASEFLNRRTDQAAEKSSEP pIFNFH10 pIFNFH11 ONVSKKEFRILLDKFNRQIEVIKNNQTEIMELKNAIGIIKMHQSSLIAALIKQKKE LVNL pIFNFH13 H DNTEKTIRILSDKFNKDIEIILKNODDILELENAIGVIKNESGFFNSRMDEAEEIIRKL pIFNFH31 QDNTEKE LRILSDK FNKE IEMIKKNOAE I LEL KNAGGI IKMHQSWLGMVAHACNPSTLGS pIFNFH03 QDNMEKE FRILSDK FNEE IEIIK KNQAEILEL KNAIDMIKNASENLTSRTDQAREIISKL pIFNFH15 pIFNFH23 EDRLFESI G DSLFDNIQSEEAN pIFNFH27 KDRLFENTVRREKRI pIFNFH14 **EDRLFENTQRRQKKRNKKK** pIFNFH01 KYRLFENTQSEETKNNKKQ pIFNFH10 pIFNFH11 **EDRLFENTQRSQKKKNKKQ** KTAYLKIHRGDKRKKYKRMKHT pIFNFH13 EDSLFENIQSEKKAKKVKQTNKKRSMY pIFNFH31

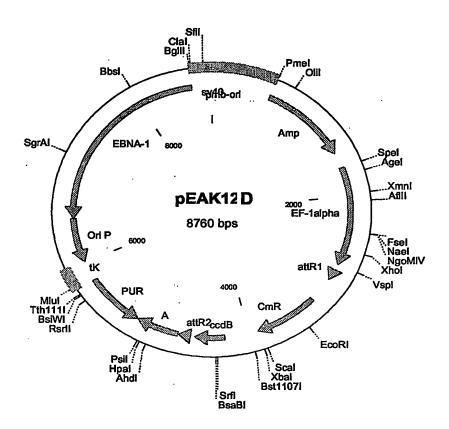
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pIFNFH15

Figure 22



### 800.ST25.txt SEQUENCE LISTING

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Ile Leu Leu Asp Lys Phe Asn Arg Gln Ile Glu Val Ile Lys Asn Asn 50 55 60
Gln Thr Glu Ile Met Glu Leu Lys Asn Ala Ile Gly Ile Leu Lys Met 65 70 75 80
Page 9

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Leu	Arg	Lys 35	Leu	Lys	Gly	Ile	800 Gln 40	Asn	25.tz Asn	t Thr	Glu	Lys 45	Glu	Phe	Arg .	•	* , .÷
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Arg	Ile								,	·							
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Page 13

1.

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Val Leu Ser Asp Lys Ile Ile Lys Glu Ile Glu Ile Ile Lys Met Asn 50 55 60

Gln Ala Glu Ile Leu Glu Leu Lys Asn Ala Thr Asp Ile Arg Lys Asn 65 70 75 80

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Ile Leu Ser Asp Lys Phe Asn Lys Asp Ile Glu Ile Ile Leu Lys Asn 50 55 60												
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800.ST25.txt
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Leu Arg L	ys Leu 5	Lys Glu	Ile Gln 40	Asp	Asn T	hr Glu	Lys Glu 45	Phe	Arg	š
Ile Leu S	er Asp	Lys Phe	Asn Lys 55	Glu	Ile G	lu Ile 60	Thr Lys	Lys	Asn	• 4
Gln Ala G	lu Ile	Leu Glu 70	Leu Arg	Asn	Ala I	le Asp 5	Ile Leu	Lys	Asn 80	
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Gly G		Thr 35	Glu	Ile	Cys	Asp	Leu 40	Ser	Asn	Arg	Glu	:Leu 45	Lys	Ile	'Ala	
Val I	leu 50	Arg	Lys	Leu	Lys	Glu 55	Ile	Gln	Asp	Ser	Thr 60	Glu ;	Lys	Glu	Phe	
Arg 1	[le	Leu	Ser	Asp	Lys 70	Phe	Asn	Lys	Gln	Ile 75	Glu	:Ile	.Ile	ГÀЗ	Asn 80	•
Ser (	31n	Ala	Glu	Ile	Leu	Glu	Leu	Lys Page		Ala	Ile	Asp	Leu	Leu	Lys	,

2 :

**3** (1)

3. .

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Ile Leu Ser Asp Lys Tyr Lys Lys Gln Ile Glu Ile Ile Lys Gly Asn 50 55 60

Gln Ala Glu Ile Leu Glu Leu Arg Asn Ala Asp Gly Thr Leu 65 70 75

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